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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Leaders Begin Meeting in Abu Dhabi

JN2112200492 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, opened the 13th session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] at the conference hall of the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel at 2130 today. [passage omitted]

After the opening session, their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders held a closed meeting, during which GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah briefed the GCC leaders on the achievements of the previous session.

The GCC leaders will hold their first working session tomorrow morning to discuss the political, economic, security, and military topics on the summit agenda in order to reinforce the mesh of the GCC states and achieve further coherence among them in light of the requirements of the next stage.

First Working Session Ends

JN2212125792 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Their majesties and highnesses, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, ended their first working session at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel at 1515 today. The leaders will begin their second working session, which will be confined to them, at 2100 today.

Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah, the chairman of the GCC Ministerial Council, said at the conclusion of the first working session that the leaders heard a report from him on the deliberations of the Ministerial Council and its recommendations to the 13th summit. The leaders discussed issues on the summit's agenda from the political, economic, and security angles and completed a large part of the agenda during the session.

'Abdallah noted that the GCC leaders heard a report presented by the military committee on the developments in the GCC states' military cooperation.

The GCC foreign ministers will hold a meeting this afternoon at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel after the conclusion of the summit's first working session in order to evaluate the progress of the summit and issues discussed in today's session.

Secretary General Comments

JN2212075792 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Their majesties and highnesses, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, will hold their first working session today to discuss political, economic, security, and military issues on their agenda aimed at promoting the march of the Council's states and realizing further cohesion among them to meet the requirements of the forthcoming phase. [passage omitted]

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah has said that the GCC states support everything that President Zayid has said in his recent statements to Arab newspapers' chief editors about tolerance toward states that stood by Iraq in its aggression against Kuwait.

In an exclusive statement to the Emirates News Agency, his excellency said that his highness, the president, as always, has shown himself to be a wise man with rich experience in life and unparalleled Arab magnanimity.

Answering a question on what occurred during last night's closed session, Bisharah said that he presented a report to their majesties and highnesses, the GCC leaders, on the Council's political and economic activities and what had developed concerning resolutions adopted since the Kuwait summit, as well as the steps that have been realized in this regard.

Bisharah said that the Abu Dhabi summit will, as of this morning, begin to discuss a number of important issues listed on its agenda.

New Secretary General Appointed

JN2212131592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (WAKH)—Informed sources in the Gulf have confirmed that Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan Bin-Salim al-Qasimi has been chosen secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council to replace 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, who has been holding that post since the Council was established in 1981.

Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi had served as the United Arab Emirates ambassador in New York.

Arab League Welcomes Saudi-Qatari Agreement

NC2112182592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League has welcomed the agreement reached between the two fraternal countries Saudi Arabia and Qatar through Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's intensive efforts.

In a statement issued today, the Arab League General Secretariat emphasized that this agreement is a major step toward consolidating and enhancing Arab relations. The statement said that this agreement reflects our nation's ability to overcome the obstacles and to be aloof from disputes so that the Arab nation can occupy its prestigious position in the new world order, which recognizes only the major states.

The League's successes hailed the efforts of the three Arab leaders—President Mubarak; King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

The Secretariat expressed the hope that the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity and preference for accord will prevail over the transient elements of disagreement so that Arab solidarity may propel the process of joint Arab action.

Islamic Fundamentalist Group's Aims, Leaders

PM1712162992 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 14-20 Dec 92 pp 23-25

[Unattributed report: "Who Are the Leaders of the Arab Extremists and What Is the Truth About 'the International Fundamentalist Organization'?"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—In its edition number 42 of 16 November, AL-WASAT, citing a prominent Arab official, revealed the existence of a "Higher Liaison Committee" which supervises "extremist Islamic groups" in the Arab world. Its task is to support the activities of the members of these groups, who are spread out in a number of Arab states, especially Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia. The prominent Arab official told AL-WASAT that the "Higher Liaison Committee" includes representatives of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi (Sudan); Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the dissolved Tunisian Ennahda Movement; the Islamic Salvation Front (Algeria); Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] (Palestine); and the Jihad Movement (Egypt). The committee coordinates its work with "some Iranian officials."

Authoritative Egyptian political and security sources have given AL-WASAT new information and details about the "Higher Liaison Committee." We publish them here in this special investigation prepared by AL-WASAT's correspondents in Cairo.

The information of authoritative and competent Egyptian political and security sources confirms the existence of "a world fundamentalist organization" founded along the lines of "international Marxism" in form and structure. Its activities are parallel to the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood's international organization. It includes more than one hardline Islamic and fundamentalist movement and group, and it resorts to violence as the way of fulfilling its objectives. One of its characteristics is close coordination among its members in more than one Arab country.

According to the same information, the four symbols of the world fundamentalist organization are the following four men:

1. Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front [NIF] (Sudan.) Some Western observers describe al-Turabi as the "real ruler" of Sudan although he tends to deny that. He is 62 years old.

2. Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, known as the "mufti of the Jihad group" in Egypt. He now lives in the United States. He has been accused of complicity in several political issues, including the charge that it was he who issued the fatwah [edict] for the assassination of Anwar al-Sadat and other Egyptian figures. He is 54 years old.

3. Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the dissolved Tunisian Ennahda Movement. He has been accused of plotting against the Tunisian regime and President Ben Ali. He was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment and now lives in Britain.

4. Abbasi Madani, leader of the dissolved Algerian Islamic Salvation Front. He has been in detention since last year along with his deputy Ali Belhaj and other members of the front.

These four are seen as "the leaders of the Arab extremists," but, according to various sources, the most prominent of the four are Hasan al-Turabi and 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. According to the authoritative Egyptian sources, this world fundamentalist organization has prepared a secret plan of action in the Arab world, including the following:

1. An "Islamic plan" drafted by Hasan al-Turabi. It is a program for the formation of a "fundamentalist front" incorporating Islamic groups opposed to the Arab governments.

2. Establishment of strong links between hardline Islamic groups in the Arab world.

3. Preparation of leadership elements to steer and animate the activities of members in various states.

4. The organization's leadership prefers to operate and act in isolation from the Muslim Brotherhood Movement. Although this international organization's leaders and prominent members came originally from the Muslim Brotherhood cloak, they insist on being independent in their objectives, tactics, and coordination. The organization considers the Iranian revolution as the "model" which should be followed, and they believe that the Iranian experiment can also be exported and forcibly implemented through intimidation, acts of violence, assassination of officials, and declaring jihad [holy war] against a number of regimes.

The world fundamentalist organization has two wings—one open, which preaches the [Islamic] call, and the other secret, which is characterized by violence and which seeks military militias to create disturbances and spread violence. It concentrates on the Jihad forces to benefit from their expertise in the use of arms and the ability to carry out acts of violence and assassination. Its members are also good at using secret codes and terms de guerre and all kinds of illegal acts, such as expropriation of Christian assets, theft, armed robbery, assassination, forgery of official documents, and use of immoral methods in the implementation of tactics such as deception, lies, and misguidance. The members believe in the

"renunciation of values" and the issuance of fatwahs for unsanctioned implementation. The organization's plan is based on exploitation of the current vacuum in the Arab political arena following the collapse of the Marxist, Nasirite, and nationalist ideologies, to promote the organization's principles and beliefs.

The world fundamentalist organization offers a different ideology from that of the Muslim Brotherhood with a view to using religion for political purposes, acting against the current regimes, and calling for their downfall by force and violence through political assassination.

The organization seeks to impose intransigence, extremism, fanaticism, and terrorism by forming organizations under such names as "the mujahidin, the revolutionaries, the jihad, and Hizballah."

The organization concentrates its activities on the following main fronts:

1. The mosques, as the first level at which the Islamic address is made and received.

2. The universities, as the first line of powers for "Islamic rebels," on the grounds that the universities have the largest fundamentalist grouping, capable of reacting quickly to any event.

3. The opposition community and pressure groups, through control of social services centers, trade and professional unions, and local councils, the aim being to prepare cadres and scouts and weave the religious society into the civilian society. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Tunis Leadership Meeting

LD2112145992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, by unidentified reporter at the PLO leadership talks in Tunis on 21 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Can you summarize for us the outcome of the proceedings of the enlarged Palestinian leadership during yesterday's and this morning's sessions?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Palestinian leadership discussed the results of the campaign that we launched last week regarding the issue of the deportation of 400 Palestinian militants from their homeland. The meeting reviewed UN Security Council Resolution 799 in this context. The meeting stressed that the responsibility of the United Nations and the Security Council's five permanent member-states lies in working for the implementation of this resolution, because without its implementation, this resolution will have only a moral effect. We are anxious for the Security Council to be willing to shoulder its responsibilities effectively, as it has shouldered them regarding a number of other international issues.

UN Security Council resolutions should not remain mere ink on paper when the issue is related to the Palestinian cause and Israeli violations against the Palestinian people. In addition, the Palestinian leadership discussed Arab and international actions, and the possibility of holding a meeting of the five Arab states concerned with the peace negotiations, in order to take a unified stance and undertake a unified action to compel the international powers to face up to their responsibilities.

Also, the meeting reviewed the situation of the Palestinian intifadah and expressed satisfaction and gratitude for the unity of the popular and national Palestinian position in the occupied territories in its confrontation against the policy of the Israeli occupation forces, the policy of the iron fist, and the crimes that continue to be committed since the deportation operation. This includes the killing of eight defenseless Palestinian children, youngsters and women, and wounding dozens in Khan Yunis. This demonstrates the policy of Rabin's government which, at the present time, aims to assassinate the peace process.

The leadership emphasized the importance of consolidating this unity regarding the confrontation against the occupation and its measures. We also received a message from brothers at Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] regarding their participation at the meetings of the Palestinian leadership during the coming few days. They will take part in the next round of these meetings in two days time.

[Reporter] What do you expect from today's session of the Israeli high court on the deportation order?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We have no confidence in the justice of the Israeli court. In any case, there is an international supreme court, which the UN Security Council adopted in its resolution that stems from the Geneva Agreement and international law. It condemned Israel and called for the return of the deportees to their country. Israel's government always resorts to this style of piracy, violation of international law, and defiance of international resolutions. Our point of reference is not Israeli justice; our point of reference is international and humanitarian justice. We hope that international powers will continue their efforts with us to secure the return of the deportees.

Details of Meeting Reported

LD2112181792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The Palestinian leadership held the first of a series of meeting in Tunis on 20 and 21 December under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in the presence of Executive Committee members, the chairmanship of the

Palestinian National Council, representatives of the Palestinian factions and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

At the opening of the proceedings, the meeting welcomed the message from the brothers in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership to brother leader President Abu-'Ammar concerning participation in the meetings of the Palestinian leadership which will continue over the next few days.

The meeting examined the outcome of last week's action and efforts by the Palestinian leadership in facing up to the campaign of mass deportation of hundreds of people from among the leadership and stragglers of our people, the escalation of the policy of the iron fist, terrorism and killings against helpless civilians, and the savage massacres committed by the Rabin government, particularly the massacre of Khan Yunis which claimed eight martyrs and scores of wounded civilian women and children.

The meeting of the Palestinian leadership stressed the need for maintaining the large-scale Arab and international campaign, particularly for implementation of UN Security Council resolution 799 on the immediate return home of the struggling deported brothers, and for ending the violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and all other savage violations and crimes being endlessly perpetrated by the Rabin government against the international community and international bodies. [passage omitted]

The meeting expressed the need for urgently holding the Arab five-party meeting [Palestinians, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Arab League] to examine ways of starting a comprehensive Arab move at all levels to alert the international forces concerned to their active responsibilities in facing up to the Rabin government's endeavors to drive the situation in the region toward maximum tension, to wage an open war against the Palestinian people, particularly in the occupied territories, and to continue its policy of mass repression, settlement, and deportation from the homeland. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian leadership expressed its thanks to and appreciation for the stance of sister Lebanon in support of its deported Palestinian brothers, for foiling the Israeli conspiracy, and for insisting on international law and rights which prohibit deporting any citizen from his territory or homeland. [passage omitted]

Hamas Threatens To Abduct Israeli Soldiers

NC1812125092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization Hamas has threatened to abduct Israeli soldiers to be swapped with the Palestinian deportees and detainees in Israeli prisons. A statement released by the organization in Beirut today asserted that the deportation policy will not preserve the Zionist entity's security but will trigger anger at this entity and its army.

Further on Joint Hamas-PLO Leaflet

TA2012181892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] At least in the territories, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PLO have been scoring achievements. In the wake of the expulsion of hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, Hamas and the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] today issued a joint leaflet canceling the strike days, which have to date been declared by different organizations, and closing the ranks in a bid to escalate the intifadah to protest the deportations. This is the first time that the two groups have issued a joint leaflet. Hamas and PLO activists held a joint rally in East Jerusalem this afternoon. They announced that they would not allow the deportations to go through. Our correspondent in the territories Moti Amir reports:

While the 415 deportees are waiting in an encampment—wedged between the Lebanese Army on one side and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] on the other and fully exhausting the public relations aspect of their human story—various groups in the territories have been getting their act together and taking extraordinary action to protest the deportations.

Representatives of Hamas, Fatah, the Popular Front, and the Democratic Front appeared for the first time together this afternoon in a special rally held at the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem. Addressing the rally, Dr. Sari Nusaybah said that the events in the territories have united the Palestinian people and remind him of the beginning of the intifadah. He stressed that the Palestinian people will not allow the deportations to go through. According to him, the talk in the Palestinian street is no longer of suspending the peace talks but of boycotting them altogether.

At the end of the rally, Hamas and the UNLI issued their first joint leaflet ever. It calls for the cancellation of the days of strike which have to date been declared by different organizations and for closing the ranks in order to escalate the intifadah until the deportees are allowed to come back home. The leaflet also calls for ongoing sit-ins in Red Cross offices throughout the territories. Incidentally, such sit-ins were held today and yesterday in various places. The leaflet further calls on the UN Security Council and the countries of the world to dispatch a military force to defend the Palestinians from the Israeli occupation forces.

It should be pointed out that although a leaflet signed jointly by Hamas and the UNLI is an exceptional occurrence, the language it uses is quite similar to that used in the dozens of leaflets the two organizations have so far distributed separately.

A strike was observed today in the territories to protest the deportations. The closure and curfews imposed last week on Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, and the Gaza Strip are still in effect. Numerous IDF troops have been deployed in the territories to prevent further clashes and confrontations which might mainly reflect casualties among inhabitants of the territories.

'Arafat Says Peace Talks Result 'Zero'

NC2112210792 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Dec 92 p 6

["Text" of interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat with a group of unidentified Egyptian correspondents covering the meetings of the Arab Lawyers Association in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Where is the Palestinian question heading?

['Arafat] The Palestinian question is now at a serious, delicate, and sensitive juncture. The intifadah is entering its sixth year, thus becoming the longest popular uprising in modern history. He who follows the writings and statements of the Israeli leaders will realize how the intifadah is affecting Israel. Gaza, for instance, used to be controlled by less than a battalion. Today they have brought in two divisions, backed by helicopters, in an attempt to suppress the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is your opinion about the Palestinians' position in the peace talks?

['Arafat] I am not ashamed to say that I went to Madrid under unjust terms because the only power in today's world imposed those terms on us. Fourteen months have passed since the start of the peace talks and the outcome is zero! We recognized Resolution 242, but Israel is rejecting it. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin repeats his rejection of the resolution; the latest instance was in Rome. He chose Rome because the Vatican is there. He declared that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. I do not believe that any Egyptian or any citizen could accept Rabin's statements. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You have said that after 14 months of talks the outcome is zero. Why, then, do you carry on with the peace process?

['Arafat] The fact that we are present at the political table means that he who is present at the table will be present in history, regardless of the Zionists' maneuvers. Rabin cannot ignore this fact. We are the only delegation that is negotiating and resisting at the same time. They must realize that the Soviet Union has collapsed, and that the Israeli leaders or the 250 nuclear warheads will not frighten us. The Arab nation is convinced of peace. If the Israeli leaders miss the opportunity, they are the losers. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Iran has been accused of backing the groups opposed to the PLO. What is your opinion?

['Arafat] I accuse Iran of interfering in the Palestinian people's affairs. It is funding and training personnel from both the leftist and Islamic organizations at the same time, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The latest amount paid to these organizations was $30 million to be used to strike at the stability and unity of the Palestinian factions. In Dakar [at the Islamic Conference Organization summit], Iran voted against the principle of jihad and now they come and talk about jihad. I asked Hamas to return to the PLO fold so that we could have one goal, namely that of resisting the Zionists and using the weapons against them, not against the Palestinian people. Iran and other countries are inciting them.

[Correspondent] What are your relations with Sudan like, and what do you say about reports that there are Iranian camps to train extremists in Sudan?

['Arafat] Our relations with Sudan are good and we have a military force in Sudan; there is a Palestinian brigade on its territory. Let me tell you that I met brother 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the ruling military council, in Egypt. I do not believe that there are camps to train extremists in Sudan. Iran has camps on its territory to train extremists.

[Correspondent] How true is the report that there are 10,000 Arabs in Iran?

['Arafat] Yes, that figure is correct. They were fighting alongside the Afghan mujahidin and they represent most of the Arab countries. They are a source of danger and must be brought out of there. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Did you ask for fresh mediation by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to reconcile you with Hamas?

['Arafat] I asked for the Muslim Brotherhood's mediation with Hamas. I told them: Do not raise your weapons against your own people; raise them with us against the enemy. Now that I have said it, God will be the witness.

[Correspondent] Is there any contact between the PLO and the new U.S. Administration?

['Arafat] First, I hope that President-elect Clinton's statements during the election campaign were merely for election campaign purposes, nothing more. We are trying to get in touch with the U.S. Administration through mediators.

[Correspondent] Are you optimistic?

['Arafat] Yes, I am.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Deportations Help Forces of Extremism'

JN1812195092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Information Department, has made the following statement:

The decision by Yitzhaq Rabin's government to deport hundreds of Palestinians renders the best possible service to the forces of extremism and violence. Furthermore, it seriously jeopardizes the entire peace process. The implementation of the decision would bring an end to the negotiations.

In his statement, he added: The international powers, particularly the UN Security Council, the cosponsors of the peace process, and the EC are called upon to immediately intercede to bring about a revocation of the Rabin government's decision and [words indistinct].

Ending the circle of violence requires a decision to immediately engage in a dialogue with the PLO to reach a peace agreement based on terminating the occupation of Palestinian territory and guaranteeing equal rights for both sides, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and mutual security.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Fate of Peace Talks

TA2112161292 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Dec 92 p 1

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that it will be difficult to get the Palestinian negotiators back to the negotiating table if Israel does not agree to return the Palestinian deportees now surrounded in south Lebanon.

Upon his return to Gaza yesterday, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: We boycotted the last session of the eighth round because of the decision to deport 415 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In answer to a question about the fate of the peace process in the aftermath of the Israeli decision, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Our stance regarding the peace process should be decided by the masses.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed his condemnation for the deportation decision and called for its cancellation. He also called on the U.S. sponsor to shoulder its responsibility in this respect.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that Security Council Resolution 799 was a good resolution that condemns the Israeli measure and calls on Israel to rescind it.

'Ashrawi Attacks Expulsions, Stresses Unity

JN2112203092 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Palestinian delegates to Middle East peace talks returned to Amman this evening after attending an eighth round of negotiations in Washington. Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told the "News a. Ten" that by deporting 415 Palestinians, Israel was trying to sabotage the peace process and called on Israel to rescind its decision.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi, in progress] ...as a willful and deliberate attempt at sabotaging not just the peace process, but at deliberately provoking the Palestinians and demonstrating that Israel will adhere to the rule of force rather than the rule of law. How can you negotiate or maintain a charade of negotiations, of seeking peace when you are waging war against the captive Palestinian population? I think that this has effectively demonstrated Israel's real intentions. It has demonstrated that unless there is genuine accountability for Israel and protection for the Palestinians, the peace process cannot work.

[Unidentified reporter] So what is next?

['Ashrawi] Right now there are very immediate needs and imperatives. The most important task is to get the Palestinian deportees back home. There is no way in which the world, the international community, can sit by and watch Palestinians being subjected to massive deportations and expulsions and transfer like this, tantamount to ethnic cleansing. There is no way that the world community can sit and watch Israel defying and violating international law and the will of the international community. And of course the Palestinian people as a whole are one people united on this position. Our meetings in Tunis proved that the whole Palestinian people are of one mind, are unified, and are totally in opposition to this action. [end recording]

Envoy to Jordan Views Peace Talks, Intifadah

JN1812143092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Dec 92 p 5

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] Palestinian ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has said that although the one-year period designated for negotiations on interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories is over, no progress has been achieved and an alternative mechanism has not been clearly defined.

In a lecture delivered at al-'Ahd party headquarters the day before yesterday, Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that Israel continues to deny and ignore the bases, terms of reference, principles, and objectives of the peace process. This is especially so since Israel continues to flout the

land-for-peace principle represented by UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which are applicable to the entire process. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian ambassador stressed that national unity has its ups and downs. He noted that Israel is benefiting from and is encouraging such differences, pointing out that the Israeli Government turned a blind eye to some forces that were arming themselves because it is the first one to benefit from weakening the PLO so that it would have no commitment to the negotiations.

He said that the absence of the sole and legitimate representative will lead to the loss of rights and that any attempt to cancel the PLO will only serve the enemy's objectives. He noted that unity and the escalation of armed struggle are the only ways to confront the occupation.

The Palestinian ambassador added: If the opposition is against the negotiations, then it should realize that there is something even more frightening than the negotiations. He expressed hope that all would realize there is no protection except within the framework of the PLO.

He called on Hamas to seriously think about returning to their political entity and to join the PLO, noting that Hamas will have representatives in the Palestinian leadership.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the intifadah has begun to regain its vitality, reducing the number of stones and increasing the number of bullets. He said that the intifadah will not be an issue of discussion at the negotiating table because if it stops, we will lose everything at the negotiating table.

He stressed that the intifadah suffers from many problems, foremost among them being the issues of financing, the killing of agents, the absence of national unity among factions, and the presence of national forces outside the framework of the PLO. He noted that the most serious problem is the arrest of 20 leading figures which started the intifadah. He added that the number of martyrs has reached 1,603, the number of deportees totals 116, the number of injured is 25,000, the number of those with permanent disabilities has reached 12,000, and the number of detainees stands at 112,847.

He said that Arab support is suspended because the Gulf war is still going on and has not stopped. Saudi Arabia used to pay $8 million to the PLO and when the intifadah began it reduced that amount to $6 million. He added that ever since May 1992, Saudi Arabia has not paid a single penny.

The Palestinian ambassador said that only $2 million out of $8 million in monthly wages for detainees and martyrs are being paid. He noted that Jordan, through the brothers at the Jordanian Committee for the Support of the Intifadah and through social solidarity, is the only country interacting with the intifadah.

Responding to a question, Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Palestinian leadership decided in 1988 not to allow PLO factions to participate in Jordanian parties because the objective of the Palestinian factions is Palestine, and their sights are fixed at Jerusalem. He noted that differences in the past between Jordan and the PLO are over and have been cast into the Dead Sea, never to return. [passage omitted]

Envoy to Cairo on Israeli Security, Peace Talks

NC1912121492 Cairo AL MUSAWWAR in Arabic 18 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has said that the Palestinians are demanding security for all the parties in the region, including Israel.

He said: We are willing from now on to listen to the Israeli security worries, and hence we can place the common ideas on the table at the negotiations on transitional autonomy [al-hukm al-dhati] and draw up the framework for a security agreement. We have common ideas that can make us emphasize to the Israelis that we really want to coexist in one area and proceed with the peace process toward a strategic objective on the basis of Resolution 242. This resolution calls for withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and stresses one of the most important principles of the UN Charter, namely, the rejection of seizing others' territories by force. The legitimate Palestinian authority has accepted the retrieval of territories occupied in 1967—which constitute only 20 percent of the land of Palestine—and regards this as the final solution for the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian people absolutely will not accept any seizure of any part of these territories in the name of security or for other settlements.

Sa'id Kamal analyzed the course and principles of the Palestinian peace initiatives, the last of which was the legitimate Palestinian authority's acceptance of the four points declared by President Bush on 6 March 1990, the basis of which is the exchange of land for peace. He also explained the contents of the U.S. letters of guarantees, which formed the basis for the start of the peace process in Madrid and for the current eighth round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington.

Envoy Urges International Action

NC2112174792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1521 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, has said that the Israel occupation forces' firing of mortar shells and shooting at the Palestinian deportees yesterday and today in the border zone clearly indicate that Israel is continuing to annihilate the Palestinian people in the occupied land.

In statements to reporters today, al-Qidrah added that, instead of bowing to international legitimacy and the Security Council resolution calling for the peaceful return of the Palestinian deportees, Israel is massacring

the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, such as the incident in Khan Yunus and the act against the deportees themselves.

He called on the international community to act quickly to force Israel to comply with international charters, provide international protection for the Palestinian people, and end the Israeli occupation.

Radio Warns of Palestinian 'Practical Response'

JN1812092792 Baghdad Voice of the Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Brothers: The Zionist enemy government yesterday decided to deport 418 of our people outside their homeland as one of the retaliatory measures that Rabin promised to take against our people. This retaliatory measure comes in response to the heroic operation carried out by the intifidah heroes who kidnapped a Zionist soldier and executed him because the occupation authorities did not respond to their demands to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is serving a life sentence on the charge of resisting the occupation.

News agencies described this operation as the largest deportation implemented by occupation forces against our people, ignoring large-scale Zionist acts of expulsion and deportation during the establishment of the Zionist entity when Zionists expelled hundreds of thousands of our people outside their homeland. These news agencies also ignored the hundreds of thousands of those who were deported by the occupation forces from their homeland during the June 1967 aggression.

The Zionists believe this measure will make our people yield and submit to the will of the occupation forces and thus abandon their brave intifadah and their national goals to liberate the land and to establish an independent Palestinian state. However, the Zionists are deluded by this belief. There is no better evidence of this fact than the stand taken by the Palestinian people today. Although more than 45 years have passed since the first crime—the crime of usurping the land and expelling its people outside their homeland—the Zionists as well as the entire world are now hearing and seeing that our kinfolk, their children, and their grandchildren, who were expelled from their homes, are determined, just like from the first day, to continue their struggle in order to return to their homeland and to liberate it from Zionist filth.

How can Zionists imagine that our people inside the occupied homeland will submit to threats to deport them outside their homeland? Despite that, the entire world has to see and hear the Zionists' version of democracy and of concern for international agreements, which ban them from expelling our kinfolk outside their homeland. The entire world should shoulder its full responsibility toward this Zionist high-handedness and oppression.

Today, the Zionists approved the deportation of our kinfolk from their homeland. Today, the United Nations and the UN Security Council will be put to the practical test once again in order to show the extent of their ability to maintain world security and peace.

Our kinfolk will have their own practical response to this Israeli retaliatory measure. The Zionists will see what the response will be.

Paper on 'Destruction of the Peace Process'

TA1812153592 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 18 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial]

[Text] The Israeli Government's decision to deport 418 residents represents an extremely grave step toward implementing Israeli extremist right-wing demands for the transfer of our entire people. At a time when the political negotiators are demanding the return of all the deportees as part of international legitimacy—supporting our political, national, and human rights—Yitzhaq Rabin's government took this escalating step, wrecking all structure and showing no concern for international legitimacy and the potential destruction of the peace process.

The United Nations has issued scores of resolutions deploring and condemning deportation. Over the years of occupation, it has also issued other resolutions calling for the return of the deportees. In addition, all the countries of the world, including the United States, have opposed the deportation policy since it clearly contravenes Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is obvious now that the current Israeli Government, which came to power six months ago under a broad umbrella of peace slogans, is striking at this peace harder than the previous Likud government.

The gloves of peace which Rabin waved were no more than a cover for a very hardline policy whose features became obvious through three rounds of bilateral negotiations—sixth, seventh, and eighth—in Washington. Those three rounds, as well as the preceding five with the Likud, have stalled at ground zero.

Rabin attributed his government's decision on deportation to the tense situation in the occupied territories. Yet this deportation will only cause more tension and escalation, leading to—on his responsibility—the destruction of the peace process. This decision will end the peace dreams and hopes of very broad sectors of our Palestinian people and those of a clear and important sector of the Israeli people, who chose Rabin instead of Shamir as a shift in favor of peace.

Finally, we must question the role of the United States, the major sponsor of the peace conference. What role will be played when this conference breaks up because of the Israeli deportation policy? How can the United States be concerned with and act seriously for the cause of peace if it does not support international legitimacy in confronting this policy that contravenes all international norms, laws, and charters?

Egypt

Ukrainian President Arrives on 3-Day Visit

NC2112111492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Ukranian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a three-day official visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak met the Ukranian leader at the airport.

Mubarak, Kravchuk Begin Talks

NC2112173892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1707 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk held a session of talks at the Presidential Office this evening.

Talks between the two leaders will deal with all international issues of common interest and the promotion of bilateral economic, investment, and technological cooperation.

Mubarak Speaks at Dinner

NC2112203392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1843 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Mrs. Mubarak held a dinner banquet this evening at the Presidential Palace in honor of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, Mrs. Kravchuk, and the delegation accompanying them. The banquet also was attended by Egyptian deputy prime ministers, ministers, and senior state officials. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of President Mubarak's speech at the dinner banquet:

Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, Mrs. Kravchuk, ladies and gentlemen:

We welcome you in Cairo with all admiration and appreciation, and look together with you toward deepening the ties and intensifying the cooperation between our two countries and peoples in all fields, consistent with our common interests and close objectives and our desire to enrich the interaction and exchange between the various peoples of the world at this delicate juncture in the history of mankind.

We always have maintained close relations with the Ukrainian institutions, which were interested in trade and cultural exchange in the past. This continuous exchange has established a firm and strong basis for close cooperation which was beneficial to the two countries and has opened the door for greater fruitful cooperation now and in the future.

We had the opportunity during the talks we began this afternoon to review ways to strengthen and enhance these relations, to perceive the available wide horizons for progress in this direction, and to discuss draft agreements which we look forward to signing during your visit to realize this objective.

Mr. President, you know that we are following with great interest the persistent efforts you are making to reorganize matters in your country following the developments in recent years and to draw up an integrated program for economic reform and social development to enable you to modernize production and develop services for the people. We sympathize with you completely in dealing with this challenge. We faced a similar challenge a few years ago. We are still engaged in a development and reform battle, in a society which depends on agriculture and industry, directs increasing attention to services, and is keen to raise the standard of national products. We similarly adhere to the independence of our will and freedom to chose reform alternatives which are consistent with the social and economic conditions in a country whose population is almost equal to the population of your country. We shoulder special responsibility in maintaining security and peace in the area in which we live. Therefore, we hope that the efforts you are making in all these fields will be successful.

We are confident you are interested in following up on the existing situation and developments in the Middle East, which are closely linked to the European continent east and west, and are seeking, as much as you can, to strengthen the process for comprehensive and just peace and to undertake a supportive role in the peace negotiations. We will remember you for this with appreciation and gratitude.

On this occasion, it is necessary to note that the parties in the peace process must ensure all the grounds for successful negotiations and avoid taking positions that could obstruct them. Therefore, we call on Israel to refrain from any action that could hinder the peace process. We specifically call on it to rescind its decision to deport the Palestinians from their homes, take specific confidence-building measures, and remove the bad feelings that have accumulated among the Palestinians and Israelis as a result of hostility, violence, and hatred.

On the wider regional level, we are striving to eliminate existing problems among regional states by friendly means and to expand the scope of cooperation and coexistence among them. We have called for the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and all kinds of weapons of mass destruction to safeguard the lives of millions of regional inhabitants and to enable its peoples to gear their energies and resources toward balanced development and comprehensive reform and to use the most modern scientific and technological methods. This is an issue to which we must give great care and attention.

On the even wider international level, we, like you, welcome the great historic relaxation that has occurred in East-West relations. We are looking forward to

reaching fair formulas for relations between the North and the South that will heal the negative effects of the past and herald a brighter future.

We are saddened by the continuation of violence and suffering in various parts of the world, where national and racial disputes are increasing and where the sons of the same homeland are fighting, bringing for them further evils and tragedies. Perhaps the clearest example of these regrettable incidents is the bloodshed, atrocities, persecution, and crimes that are taking place in Bosnia-Hercegovina. These crimes sometimes are committed in the name of national interests and at other times under the slogan of ethnic cleansing. All these concepts are rejected by international society and the new world order. Therefore, we call on the Serbian factions to stop their aggression immediately, or else the international community will be compelled to take effective measures to end this disaster.

Dear friends, I was happy to have met today with President Kravchuk and his companions. I was pleased with the cordial conversation that took place between us which was sincere and frank. We are confident this visit will contribute toward developing relations between our two countries in all fields.

Allow me to ask you to stand up to greet President Kravchuk, his wife, and their delegation. I hail the friendship and cordiality between the two countries.

Kravchuk Address on Cooperation

NC2112214392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has expressed his appreciation for the stable and constructive role Egypt is playing in the Middle East.

He also expressed his confidence that the agreements he signed during his visit to Egypt, as well as the mutual understanding between Egypt and the Ukraine, will open wide horizons for cooperation in various fields in the interest of the two countries and the international community.

The Ukrainian president said in his speech, delivered during the dinner banquet President Husni Mubarak gave in his honor this evening, that his country wishes to bolster friendship and cooperation ties with Egypt.

Following is the text of the speech:

Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Esteemed Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak; esteemed friends and gentlemen: In the name of the Ukrainian people, I am pleased to greet you and the great Egyptian people through you.

During the short time the Ukrainian delegation has been in your hospitable country, we have sensed the heartiness and loyalty of your people toward independent Ukraine and those who represent it here.

We have been convinced that the feelings the Ukrainian people—the people of a newly independent state—have today, are close to and understood by the Egyptian people. A little over a year has passed since our independence was declared as a result of the Ukrainian people's general referendum. I would like to point out here that Egypt was one of the countries that recognized independent Ukraine.

After Ukraine gained equal rights with other countries in world cooperation, it paid attention, and continues to pay attention, to developing full-fledged relations of equity and mutual benefit, not only with its Western neighbors in Europe, the United States, and Canada—where a large number of Ukrainians reside—but we also hope to gain friends and colleagues in the Middle East.

The talks with President Mubarak and the negotiations with Egyptian officials—as well as the short meetings with the sons of this country, who are distinguished for their talents and hard work—provided me with the opportunity to confirm the great potential characterizing our future cooperation. This cooperation depends on the numerous joint characteristics between our two peoples, who always have linked well-being with a love of work.

The Egyptian custom of respecting the elderly corresponds to the respect the Ukrainians have for their fathers, an asset for which our people are known. Our people also share deep mutual feelings of respect for each other and seek to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation.

We greatly appreciate the stable and constructive role your country plays in the Middle East region as we construct our democratic, legitimate, Ukrainian state and realize the move to a free market economy—an economy liberated from the burden of nuclear weapons. We also wish to turn Ukraine into a serious factor of stability and prosperity in the European continent.

I am fully confident that the documents that will be signed during this visit will be all-inclusive, as will the mutual understanding on cooperation between our two people in the various sectors and fields of activity. Broad horizons also will be opened for building bilateral relations in the interest of our two countries and the international community.

Finally, I allow myself to deduce that any people are considered a great treasure, and that our wealth will increase when we find new friends and benefit from the support of the old friends. This treasure is bottomless as long as there are good intentions among the people, as long as help and joint action are characterized by mutual benefit, and as long as each party feels loyalty and respect for the other.

I wish the Egyptian people continued prosperity, and you, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and your wife, good health and happiness. I also wish good health to the dear Egyptian friends who are present here.

Agreements on Relations Signed

NC2212102092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk signed an agreement on the basis of relations and cooperation between Egypt and Ukraine this morning.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Ukrainian counterpart, Anatoliy Zlenko, signed four agreements. The first agreement deals with scientific and cultural cooperation and the second with trade relations; the third agreement represents a protocol on consultations between the two Foreign Ministries, and the fourth deals with the joint statement.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Mykola Zhulhskyy signed an agreement on cooperation in the information field. Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed two agreements with Ivan Herts, Ukrainian minister of external economic relations and trade. The first agreement deals with the encouragement and protection of investments and the second with economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Foreign Ministry Aide on Peace Talks, Sudan

PM2112152092 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 16 Dec 92 p 11

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] ['UMAN] Every round of the peace negotiations with Israel tends to reach an impasse. What is your opinion? And is it possible for the talks to make progress in their next rounds?

[Al-Baz] In the past Israel alleged that it wants peace and the Arabs want war, that it wants reconciliation and we want conflict, and that it wants right as an arbiter and that we cling to the past because we are fanatics who refuse to extend our hand to others.

We do not view the Palestinian issue from a racist angle. We are not against the Jewish religion or the Jewish people. Nor is it to do with racist tyranny. This is because we lived with the Jews for many centuries without any rift between Arabs and Jews. The establishment of Israel took place because of a European problem, not because of an Arab or Middle Eastern problem. [passage omitted]

We do not agree with many of the proposals raised by Israel in recent negotiations, because some of them adopt the old concepts used before the formation of the new government. Some points could make room for give and take. What I think is that Israel is serious in negotiation, takes its positions through negotiation, and is willing to amend and change them according to conditions and the Arabs' reaction. [passage omitted]

['UMAN] What about Egyptian-Sudanese relations at this stage?

[Al-Baz] Sudan is a fraternal Arab country to which we have been bound by special ties since times of old. We consider it our country's twin. At certain times in the peoples' life the idea of complete correspondence between Egyptian and Sudanese interests may be encroached on. But we do not believe there is any contradiction between Egyptian and Sudanese interests. Actually our interests are completely the same.

What has happened is that we have recently found that some policies represent a departure from this line. We are working to correct this departure. We are not trying to stir up problems, but rather to contain the dispute, because we believe a rift is futile. This is why we believe that all disputed matters between us and Sudan can be resolved. All we emphasize is that we cannot accept the undermining of Egypt's security, because that is dangerous. We want to safeguard the individual and collective security of the Arab nation's peoples and states as a whole. So any threat to Egyptian security for any reason and with whatever justification is unacceptable. And we are willing to establish good relations to match this correspondence in interests and orientations. [passage omitted]

Government Daily Decries Israeli Deportation

NC2212085392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0814 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says that it is unreasonable for Israel to detain 418 Palestinians and irresponsibly dump them in snow-covered border areas in response for the killing of one Israeli soldier. In its editorial today, the paper says that the continued military pressure in the occupied territories will lead to an explosion. The paper notes the explosion in Gaza following the imposition of the curfew just before the Israeli soldier was killed. After the curfew, the occupation forces confronted the demonstrators with bullets, killing six and injuring 30 others.

NPUG 'Regrets' U.S. Role in Somalia Operation

NC2012210792 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Dec 92 p 4

[Statement by Mahir 'Azal, secretary of the media bureau in the National Progressive Unionist Grouping]

[Text] The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] declares its approval of the UN Security Council resolution to send an international force to Somalia to enable relief workers to realize the goal of saving the Somali people from starvation, particularly in view of the increasing looting of relief aid. The NPUG supports the participation of Egyptian and other Arab troops in this force, despite the regrettable fact that the majority of this force and its leadership are American.

The party regrets the negative Arab policy and the absence of an Arab League role. This has left the reins of the initiative to the United States, which seeks to consolidate its hegemony on the international situation, particularly in the Horn of Africa.

The fact is that the present deterioration in Somalia and the lack of the sense of responsibility among Somalia's political leadership have led to disintegration in the society and to the state's collapse, thus paving the way for foreign intervention. The Arab rulers should have filled the vacuum within the framework of an Arab League-sponsored solution. However, they ducked their responsibility toward the fraternal Somali people, giving America enough space to play a major role and contenting themselves with the role of the younger brother. This conduct involves certain risks for the future of the Arab system, which is vulnerable to schemes to undermine it and replace it with other regional powers—powers pursuing strategic goals that run counter to the collective pan-Arab security.

'Optimism' Over Clinton's Economic Summit Noted

NC1912094592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Dec 92 p 9

[Editorial: "America's Economic Summit"]

[Text] The U.S. economic summit called for by U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton was held amid general optimism that it may revive the U.S. economy, although economic experts admit that the new Democratic administration in the United States is facing difficult challenges.

Clinton sought to establish a broad base of economic experts and businessmen to back up his economic policies. But he succeeded in scoring yet a further goal, namely, lending added credibility to the seriousness of the new administration and its determination to perform its tough mission before it officially begins its term on 20 January.

The fact that Clinton began his moves on the political scene by appointing his economic team—even before filling the other sensitive positions in the State and Defense Departments—increased optimism. This suggests that "economy" remains, and will continue to be, a top priority for him. The formation of an economic security council parallel to the National Security Council is no less important. Clinton appears determined to observe closely and immediately the effects of financial, commercial, and economic decisions.

Lastly, Clinton attracted attention because of his choices for his economic team. Western observers note that the team is harmonious, with its members having vast experience in economic and political decisionmaking. The team, moreover, enjoys the respect and confidence of the Congress, which strengthens the possibility of its success.

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart for Bahrain

NC1912140292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Bahrain this afternoon on his first official visit, which comes in response to an invitation from the Bahraini amir. The visit will last four days.

Before leaving, Dr. Sidqi stated that he is carrying an oral message from President Mubarak to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Delegation Departs for Eritrea

NC2212085492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Ibrahim 'Awf left Cairo early this morning at the head of a diplomatic delegation that will make an official four-day visit to Eritrea. Before his departure, 'Awf said that he is carrying a message from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Mahmud Sharifu, secretary of the general secretariat for foreign affairs in the provisional Eritrean government. The message reiterated Egypt's support for Eritrea in its current stand and its concern that the referendum on its independence be held in a quiet and stable atmosphere. 'Awf added that he is carrying with him a number of reference books on constitutional matters to help Eritrean officials enact a draft constitution to rule the country after a democratic referendum has been held. [passage omitted]

Minister Discusses Talks With Burundian Committee

NC2212085892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Following the first session of the Egyptian-Burundian Joint Committee meetings, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the talks centered on ways to consolidate economic and trade ties and create new opportunities for bilateral investment.

Meetings of the fourth session of the Egyptian-Burundian Joint Committee opened at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Musa led the Egyptian delegation and the Burundian foreign minister led his country's delegation.

The two sides are scheduled to discuss at the meetings current African issues, Middle East developments, and ways to promote Egyptian-Burundian relations in various areas.

Islamic Group Issues Statement on Tourist Attacks

NC2112221292 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Dec 92

["Islamic Group Statement About the Attacks on Tourists"—AL-SHA'B headline; received via the AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]

[Text] 1. It is not the policy of the Islamic Group to kill or attack foreign tourists or non-Muslims.

2. There is no objection to tourists or others coming to our country as long as they abide by religious traditions and do not attack us.

3. What is now happening in Qina, Dayrut, and Imbabah is that there are groups of young children whose leaders the authorities have detained or killed. The authorities also have pursued these young people, who have become convinced that these authorities want to detain them for a long period or kill them on the street without their having committed any crime. These youths are not under the direct control of the Group or the security services. They are hiding in the fields and mountains, and are attacking tourist sites to exert economic and moral pressure on the police, the government, and the president to end the injustice facing them, their leaders and brothers who have been detained for years and who number around 3,000. Several thousand court rulings have been issued for their release, but the ruling regime has refused to carry out these judgments. The youths also aim to end the policy of physical liquidation which the police are carrying out against them and which the interior minister admitted to in his testimony last November in the al-Mahjub [former People's Assembly speaker] assassination case. They also aim to stop the savage torture of all those who are arrested and to lift the security siege and curfew imposed on some areas, such as Dayrut.

4. We proposed to the Interior Ministry and political figures in the ruling party to release several detained leaders so that they could bring the situation under control in these explosive areas and persuade the armed groups to stop attacking tourist sites, therefore safeguarding the tourists' lives. The regime was intransigent, however, and refused to implement the court rulings to release these people.

We hold the regime fully responsible for the lives of the tourists in the explosive areas because it is refusing all our attempts to persuade the fleeing and pursued armed youths to stop attacking tourists.

We suspect that the Egyptian regime has covert objectives in this refusal and that it has an interest in the escalation of the situation. This interest could be to exert moral pressure on the West to secure aid on the pretext of suppressing terrorism or to ensure its silence over the regime's excesses against the Islamic opposition.

5. We call on neutral organizations concerned with human rights to help us stop this episode by convincing the Egyptian regime to release the spiritual leaders who can influence the youths and persuade them to refrain from doing such things, and by influencing the police to stop the torture, physical liquidation, and imposition of curfews in towns.

6. The fact that no tourist has been harmed outside the areas in which the police are carrying out the previously described serious violations confirms that the Group is not pursuing a policy of killing or harming tourists.

7. We fear that the police escalation of the situation in some new areas by following the policy of arrests, torture, pursuit, physical liquidation, and curfews might result in shifting this problem to these areas.

8. We want to stop such actions, but the imprisonment of 3,000 of our influential spiritual leaders and the imposition of strict security measures in Qina and Imbabah, and a curfew in Dayrut make us practically unable to intervene.

9. We regret that some people were wounded in Qina and that a British woman was killed in Dayrut. We wish that this had not happened at all.

[Signed] The Islamic Group

15 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 Hegira

10 December 1992

Al-Jihad Leader on Tourism, Group's Demands

NC1912212192 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 20 Dec 92

[Interview with Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the al-Jihad Organization, by unidentified UKTUBAR correspondent, in the United States; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Why is tourism in Egypt attacked when it represents an important source of income for the country?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Real countries rely on trade and industry rather than tourism. The country's economy must be solid and based on strong foundations.

[Correspondent] But millions of Egyptians rely on tourism as a source of livelihood. What aim is there in hurting them?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Do not those detained by the government have families, wives, and children? Why do we shed tears over a woman tourist who was killed and not over the thousands of family members of the prisoners? More tears should be shed over these families than others.

[Correspondent] Excuse me. I did not mention the woman tourist in my question. My question was about the losses inflicted on Egypt as a result of the attempts to harm tourism.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Moreover, we are not responsible for this. We are looking at the families whose fathers and sons have been detained. We must look after them and we should be even-handed. We are not responsible for the families that were hurt by the attacks on tourism because the Islamic Group was not responsible for this.

[Correspondent] What do you mean by "responsible," especially considering the al-Jihad Group claimed responsibility for these incidents?

['Abd-al-Rahman] There is no such thing as the al-Jihad Group. This nomenclature is the work of the state security intelligence service, like the FBI [acronym in English] here in the United States. It was the "Islamic Group." The attacks on tourism were attributed to the Islamic Group. I have said that if certain individuals did carry out such acts then they did so as a form of pressure on the government on the issue of the detainees who have been held by the government for years without trial and without being released. They are brought before military courts instead of civilian courts. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You demand implementation of the Constitution with regard to social justice and the application of Islam, but at the same time you oppose the principle of democracy and the Constitution. Don't you think that this is contradictory?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I do not approve of the application of the Constitution. I am just pointing out that they resort to military courts, which is utter oppression.

[Correspondent] What about Iran's interference in Egypt's internal policy by assisting the Islamic groups in stirring up trouble inside Egypt and even in other Arab countries?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Iran is one of the revolutions that has succeeded, but the Islamic groups have no connection with Iran from the organizational, political, or financial standpoints. It is only a matter of sentimental sharing.

[Correspondent] You have been living in the United States and at the same time attacking the countries that maintain friendly relations with the United States. Don't you think you are exploiting your presence in the United States?

['Abd-al-Rahman] This needs no explanation. I entered the United States legally, and if the U.S. Government wants me out, this must be done within its laws, which I have not violated. The U.S. Government made clear statements in this regard, saying it cannot expel me as long as I have not violated the law.

[Correspondent] Why did you choose to live in the United States, which is the country of corruption, AIDS, tourism, and sinners?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I entered the United States to preach God. Before that I visited Britain five or six times. I also visited Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and other countries. The U.S. Government took my papers and passport, and for this reason I am still here.

[Correspondent] Do you feel that the Islamic movement is spreading in the United States?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Yes. The truth is that the American people respond to the call and they are not fanatic like in Europe. If Islam is preached correctly to them, they enter into the religion of God in multitudes. The United States is fertile ground for the Islamic call.

[Correspondent] What is your position regarding residence in the United States and the case that will be considered by U.S. courts within a few days?

['Abd-al-Rahman] When I returned from one of my trips, my Green Card was taken away from me at the airport, even though I got it legally through a job at the mosque. It is not true that I married an American, even though marriage to an American is legitimate under Islam.

[Correspondent] Why did you choose to be away from Egypt and declare a verbal war against it? Why don't you discuss matters with the officials in your country?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Because I do not trust any of the officials. For talks to produce results, I must sit down with conscientious religious ulema. This is provided they are not the authority's ulema, like the shaykh of al-Azhar and the mufti.

[Correspondent] What are your demands?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Our main demands are to let God's shari'ah be the law, to rule according to God's book, to release the detainees, and to free those who speak the truth from oppression.

[Correspondent] Who can talk with you?

['Abd-al-Rahman] There is Shaykh Sayyid Sabiq, Shaykh 'Abd-al- Latif al-Mushtahiri, and Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi.

[Correspondent] But Shaykh al-Sha'rawi has been accused by your group, which regards him as being against you.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Differences of view may occur, but I do not see any contradiction.

[Correspondent] If you have to leave the United States, where will you go? To Sudan or Iran, as many people expect?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I am ready now to go to Egypt.

[Correspondent] What is your relationship with the Islamic groups in Egypt?

['Abd-al-Rahman] My relationship with them is that of a defender of the truth.

[Correspondent] What would you say to the Islamic groups in Egypt?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I say nothing. This is not my job. But I address my words to the government, because my objective is that the Egyptian Government rule by the word of God.

[Correspondent] How do you see the application of shari'ah in Egypt?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The regime must be removed and ulema should take over and implement God's shari'ah. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How do you feel about democracy under an Islamic government?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Islam calls for shura [rule by consultation], which is better than democracy. If democracy clearly implies shura, then Islam approves it. If democracy means freedom of movement and meeting, the existence of groups such as parties that express what they want, and elections, we, of course, have reservations. By the way, democracy has not yet been implemented in Egypt.

[Correspondent] You said before that Islam rejects democracy because it means the rule of the people by the people, and in Islam the rule is by God alone. How can we imagine a shura system in the computer age? How can we apply such a system in a country with a population of 56 million people?

['Abd-al-Rahman] If democracy means freedom of opinion for all, we accept this. But the rule in an Islamic system is the rule of God alone, according to shari'ah, the Koran, and the prophet's teachings. No one has the right to make a ruling except on the basis of what came from God. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It is said that there are foreign elements hostile to Egypt within the most extremist Islamic groups.

['Abd-al-Rahman] They think that we have an organization, but the Islamic Group consists of young men. There is no cluster or other organizations. They are youths with shaykhs who believe in the call for Islam behind them.

[Correspondent] But analysts believe that these youths' economic situation and social problems and the return of workers from Arab countries caused their extremism.

['Abd-al-Rahman] In fact the Islamic Group consists of rich, poor, and middle-class people, but those who follow revolution and preaching movements are always young men. When the prophet called for advocating the way God, the youths supported it and the elderly disagreed. The reasons are not economic or social, rather they are the understanding and thorough study of the religion.

[Correspondent] What is your view of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations?

['Abd-al-Rahman] They are treachery, betrayal, surrender, and humiliation. In these negotiations, Muslim rulers sold off their consciences. When has Israel kept its promises? The negotiations are an international game. President Bush has turned racist Zionism into a messianic regime.

[Correspondent] Your words suggest that you denounce the Camp David Accord.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Was the Camp David Accord based on the Islamic system so that you ask about it?

[Correspondent] The accord returned the occupied land to Egypt.

['Abd-al-Rahman] It returned the occupied land to Egypt but deprived Egypt of the right to use it freely.

[Correspondent] How do you view nuclear armament?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Islam does not agree to anything that harms the world. Had there been any international system warding off any harm to humanity, Islam would have been the first to agree to it. I support international treaties that save humanity from any harm.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Address to Students 20 Dec

LD2112124592 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting with students and youths in Sabha on 20 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] How are you? In the name of God. I spoke yesterday, and perhaps some of you heard me on radio. I addressed students in Jalyah, and we are repeating the same things so that you understand it. If we say things once, perhaps people do not pay attention, so because of the importance of the subject, our talk on this must be repeated. [passage omitted]

Look at a country like Libya. People say it is a rich country because it has oil and a small population. These are the first facts that come to mind when we talk about Libya. Everyone says it. We are not like we used to be. We are a rich country, with oil and a small population, and therefore we have no problems. But, as youths concerned with the future and as educated people, you cannot judge such matters in the manner of an ignorant, simple-minded man who falls into a trap without realizing that there is one in front of him. [passage omitted]

Mu'ammar [al-Qadhdhafi] is in charge, our situation is good, we have oil and a small population; this is the first thing he would say. But here we must stop him. Relying on oil and the small size of the population is the crux of the matter, because a small population becomes a big one in the future. We can compare our present population with that of 10 or 20 years ago. We can compare how every family, village, and city used to be and how they are now. [passage omitted]

Forget the size of the population. After 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 years it becomes tens of millions. If we do not think now about where these tens of millions are going to live, we will be criminals and simple-minded people. [passage omitted]

We have oil, but even this is a temporary and transient thing. Yesterday I told students there is a country called Romania which used to be very rich with oil. Now it does not have a single drop of oil. There were countries in Africa full of gold. Ghana used to be called the Gold Coast, but now it has no gold. [passage omitted]

What is important is that we are in a situation in which we can decide our fate and make our future. The oil which we now have is a weapon with which we must pave the way to our future. We should not squander it on paper handkerchiefs, pens, clothes, perfumes: after 10 years all these will perish. [passage omitted]

We must fast and pray for the future. Fasting and praying for 30 or 50 years is thinking and struggling and paving way to the future by exploiting this oil, these capabilities, this awareness, the revolutionary program, Pan-Arabism, this Arab nation, and the one Arab homeland about which we talk.

How many generations have shouted the slogan From Marrakesh to Bahrain? What good is this slogan if we do not benefit from it in this life, if we are confined between the Sahara and the sea, in an island of salt in North Africa, and we cannot come out of it? To hell with the Arab homeland; what do we need it for? Whose homeland is it anyway, if Arab oil goes to America? To hell with it. What kind of Arabs are they who give oil to America? Oil is for all the Arabs. Water is for all the Arabs. Had only those with the oil and water benefitted from them, this would have been fine. But in the situation we are in, only the enemy has benefitted from them, because this a situation of weakness.

The Tigris and the Euphrates are rivers in Syria and Iraq. Suppose that the Iraqis and the Syrians said there is no need for unity; there is no unity between Syria and Arab, and no Arab unity; we do not care, because we have water. We wish they were able to defend this water. This water is threatened, because Syria and Iraq cannot defend the sources of the water they drink. [video shows al-Qadhdhafi pointing to a map] This water comes from Turkey. Turkey built a huge dam and named it Ataturk dam. In one go it blocked 7 billion [cubic meters of water]. [passage omitted]

Syria and Iraq cannot protect their water. Let them protect their water from Turkey. Why did they not halt the Ataturk dam? When they blocked 7 billion cubic meters of water in one go and people felt thirsty in Syria and Iraq last year, they protested at the blocking of the water. The Turks said good morning, the dam has been built for 10 years, and do you think we should blow it down? By God, this is what the Turks told them. [passage omitted]

Calamities are still coming. Now the Israelis are manufacturing nuclear weapons in order to divert the Nile in Uganda. When the day comes, should we begin shouting, after the death of 100 million Arabs—the populations of Egypt and Sudan—why did you make us thirsty? What did you do? Most certainly they will say good morning, we have been manufacturing nuclear weapons since 1954 to do precisely this.

Do you want to bury your heads in the sand like an ostrich and not care about your future, not think of tomorrow? We have been thinking how to do this for tens of years. [passage omitted]

We said we benefit from this Arab homeland, from this Arab nation, from Pan-Arab slogans such as From Marrakesh to Bahrain. If other Arabs do not want to benefit, let them please themselves. We cannot force them to benefit from their oil, from their water. We see the danger to the sources of the Nile, the Tigris, and the Euphrates, and we see the population growing in Egypt so fast that the Nile is no longer capable of meeting its needs, even without the Israelis intervening in the sources of the Nile. [passage omitted]

This is an issue which my historic and revolutionary duty dictates that I should raise, because it concerns you, not as university students, but as young people. It concerns your children and your future. All these oases [video shows al-Qadhdhafi pointing to a map] in southern Libya, southern Egypt, western Egypt, southern Algeria, in Mauritania, in the Arabian peninsula, will inevitably dry up in the future. [passage omitted]

If this water dries up, who will bring you water? Such things as Pepsi Cola and alcohol, excuse me, which you buy from Europe will not provide you with water in the future. They will not create water reservoirs. Drink them and see what will the future be. [passage omitted]

We built the great man-made river, nationalized the oil, established all these education institutes which have been able to absorb you all and provide you with education, we have built roads, airports, and seaports all over Libya; but this does not mean that this is the end of the revolution. No. These are only tranquilizers, what you might call first-aid measures.

We found people who were hemorrhaging, about to die, and we stopped the bleeding. We found them suffering from a headache and we gave them a painkiller. [passage omitted]

Libyans how could never look after the oil on their own. Tomorrow, a bogus resolution will be passed calling on 30 states to encroach upon the oil and take it, and we will be told this is international law. They have now changed tactics; they no longer come face to face or on a bilateral basis. They now exploit the UN. When they want to attack you, they mobilize all states of the world.

They asked if we will assume responsibility and we said yes. We said that we are ready to die; you cannot stop us, and when we are dead you can come into Libya, but you will not find the two [Lockerbie suspects] you want to put on trial [applause].

Thus, they faced a dilemma and found themselves in an embarrassing position. So they began to think: suppose we attacked Libya and killed 10,000 people but we did not get the two people we want, what would the outcome be? Failure. We would not be able to try the two men we want.

If they were to go into war against Libya, they would certainly not be able to get the two people they want. This might be possible by negotiation and according to legal procedures, but not through war. So they reverted to the UN and transformed the case from one between them [Western countries] and Libya to one between Libya and the UN. [passage omitted]

The point is that, as Libyans, you should not hope to be able to protect the oil on your own. If you want to preserve oil, you should either have one strong Arab nation defending all of its oil, including Libyan oil, or it will be taken away, just as the oil of Arabia and Iraq is being taken away—it is now going to the West and the Arabs cannot refuse because of the weakness of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

By the same token, they would also take your gasoline if you were counting on the Libyans only. You cannot now strike against a European country without the whole of Europe siding with it. Europe is united now. [passage omitted]

When we attacked the island of Lampedusa in 1986, the whole of Europe said: Wait, you are attacking a country which is a member of NATO. Lampedusa is part of Italy, and Italy is a member of NATO. The whole of NATO was ready to attack Libya. But if you attack any Arab country, you will not find anyone among the Arabs who will say no to the usurpation of another Arab country's gasoline. Nobody would say this petrol belongs to all the Arabs. This water belongs to all the Arabs. This is sacred to all the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Frankly, without Arab unity you cannot say this is our petrol. This does not mean that we are afraid. We are all prepared to fight and die, but then they would simply take what they want. The coward is one like this [video shows al-Qadhdhafi pointing with a stick to a map of the Arab World] who without war has surrendered his gasoline and resources. This is the coward who wants to rule, and let them take it. [passage omitted]

Then, gasoline must belong to all the Arabs. It is the Arab nation which should defend the sources of the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Nile. Sudan cannot defend the sources of the Nile, Syria cannot defend the source of the Euphrates, and Iraq cannot defend the sources of the Tigris. [passage omitted]

I am talking about your future as young people, and I do not want you to suffer as our ancestors have done. [passage omitted]

Do you want to be lead by someone else with a [political] party, such as Aydid and Muhammad al-Mahdi [of Somalia], who have killed 1 million of their own people so that one them can become the leader of Somalia? You have seen them. Now they have sheepishly accepted to negotiate and withdraw their units from Mogadishu. They made the agreement at the U.S. embassy. This shows you that it was the U.S. embassy that gave them power and enabled them to kill a million of their own people in order to see which of them should be ruler of Somalia. [passage omitted]

Do you want the same thing to happen here? Do you want people to start fighting to see who should be leader and kill you. Bombs would fall on homes, and no one would be able to go to their farm or their school, nor would you be able to live in your own home, just because some individuals would be fighting to see which of them should rule us. Are we going to allow such a farce here? If we were, we would not deserve to continue living. [passage omitted]

If we say such issues should not be discussed, then close down even the mosques. The preacher tells you every Friday to think of your future, of your tomorrow, of your afterworld, of your habitation, of your homes, and of your destiny on the day of judgement. Why do we then listen to him? These are remotely detached things in comparison to the issues we have been talking about. If you say stop talking about the future, about when the gasoline dries up, and when water dries up in all these countries, then close even the mosques. [passage omitted]

We must think of this world. Let me live today and kill me tomorrow. Let me live in this world, and, God willing, we will talk about the day of judgement tomorrow. Then no need to fast or pray, or to perform the pilgrimage. Everyday we pay millions for the sake of the hajj [pilgrimage]. If we had used them this money for agricultural or industrial projects, we would now have been in better shape. Every Libyan has already performed the pilgrimage 100 times. [passage omitted]

Oh people, we encourage immigration to Libya from Niger, Chad, and Egypt, and we also encourage immigration in the opposite direction. This is similar to encouraging migration from the countryside to the city, though the correct approach is to encourage migration from the city to the countryside. When we encourage immigration to Libya from countries with water, it is as

though we are encouraging migration from the countryside to the city. [passage omitted]

Don't say that whoever remains in Libya will have the oil. On the contrary, whoever remains in Libya is under threat. The oil could be taken away from them. [passage omitted]

You have to think how to have the appropriate number of people living on this island of salt, and consider who many its land can sustain. The land from Libya to Mauritania cannot sustain more than 10 million people, but there are 55 million people living there now. [passage omitted]

So what is required from you as young people is that you seriously mobilize the masses in order to save your future. [passage omitted]

We have 10 agreements with Egypt and four with Sudan that allow you to go there, own a farm, a shop, or a service garage and live there freely, without the need to take up arms or fight. [passage omitted]

Make comparisons between them, and when you are convinced you must convince the others, because conviction with action but without order is useless. The first thing is to organize yourselves in true revolutionary committees, unlike the previous revolutionary committees, where anyone could join a revolutionary committee to climb up, strike, dominate, tower above the people, etc. Now, from tomorrow, if you are registered in a college—not necessarily in a college, even if registered in the commune you are in—you must do that for the sake of coalescing with the other revolutionary forces you find in front of you. I do not care any more whether revolutionary committees are made up of students or nonstudents. I care about revolutionary committees which make the future, committees in which I find a farmer, a worker, a student, workshop owner, [word indistinct] holder, a civil servant, an artisan, and a professional. All of you unite with one another, so that we find in each commune and in each locality a revolutionary committee which forms the nerve which stimulates this commune to revolution.

You start from tomorrow, because this is part of the curriculum, part of education. The secretary of the General People's Committee for Education is present with us, and this is your committee which is composed of 1,500 members—one from each commune forms this committee—which supervises this work. It assures me that the students who have understood these precepts have actually started forming themselves into revolutionary committees in educational institutions and in their localities. [passage omitted]

We have started again to renew the revolutionary movement, resurrect it anew, and charge it with a true historical, strategic, and unionist responsibility, which will not allow for the existence of barriers between Libya and Chad, Libya and Sudan, and between Libya and Egypt, and put an end to the borders which were actually created by colonialism. We want the revolutionary committees to start forming tomorrow, and the public mobilization to start in your own areas—think only of your own areas. We want it to be serious and genuine like the seriousness of the revolution whose cornerstone was laid in this very place. [passage omitted]

Chad is our land. All of it is Arab. Chadians live in Libya in the hundreds of thousands, therefore hundreds of thousands of us have the right to move to Chad. [passage omitted]

This is the historic mission that faces the movement of the revolutionary committees, because without a revolutionary movement we can neither convince the people, nor carry out mass mobilization. We must be assured now that there is a revolutionary movement in each locality in charge of mobilization. The struggle is continuing. [cheering and shouting of slogans]

Ministers Discuss Relations With Croatia's Mesic

LD2012161092 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met at noon today with Croatian Parliament Speaker Stipe Mesic and members of the delegation accompanying him who are visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Bilateral relations between the two friendly peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and Croatia and ways to bolster ties for the common good of both were discussed at the meeting. A number of international issues of common interest were also discussed.

The brother assistant secretary of the General People's Congress met this morning in Tripoli with Mesic and members of his delegation. The meeting was attended by the secretary of foreign relations at the General People's Congress.

During the meeting, Mesic expressed his thanks and gratitude for the positive role the Great Jamahiriyah has been playing in resolving the conflict among the warring factions in what used to be known as Yugoslavia. He affirmed his country's desire and anxiousness to bolster the bonds of friendship between the two countries for the good of their common interests in the various fields.

Discussions during the meeting also covered the drawing up of a plan for the bolstering of relations between the Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Croatian parliament.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy this morning met with Mesic and members of his delegation. Discussions during the meeting dealt with the basis for bolstering mutual cooperation between the two countries in the field of petroleum and petrochemical industries for the common good of both.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry also met this morning with Mesic. Discussions during the meeting covered the basis of joint cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Croatia in various industrial fields.

Extension of 'Unfair' UN Sanctions Protested

LD1812154492 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Al-Jaffra al-Kanun [December] 18 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic People's Congress in Mahala al-Fuqaha, in al-Jaffra region marched in protest and anger, denouncing the extension of the unfair and inhuman sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahariyah through the unjust Resolution 748.

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses in Mahala al-Fuqaha voiced their sheer anger and protest against the unjust sanctions. In a statement they confirmed the UN Security Council, through such measures, reveals its true colours and its transformation into a tool in the hands of the powerful, directed towards the oppression of the weak.

At the end of their rally, the masses of the Basic People's Congresses sent a cable to the leader renewing their absolute commitment to the aims and principles of the great al-Fatih revolution and their eternal commitment to the people's authority, which is not shared with anyone else and their everlasting willingness to preach the universal humanitarian thesis expounded in the third universal theory, domestically and externally until the green colour dominates the globe.

Yemeni Envoy Conveys Message to al-Qadhdhafi

JN1512141392 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Yahya Hussayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has conveyed an oral message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as developments both on the Arab and international levels.

This took place when brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received the brother minister in Tripoli yesterday. The meeting was attended by Yemeni Charge d'Affaires in Tripoli brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim Hijar.

Morocco

Government Condemns Deportation of Palestinians

LD1812145292 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Morocco today strongly condemned the oppressive measures employed by the Israeli authorities in deporting 417 Palestinians. The spokesman of the minister for foreign affairs and cooperation stressed that this action constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and of the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of civilians under occupation. The spokesman added that Morocco regrets that this action has taken place at a time when negotiations are under way to reach a durable, just, and comprehensive peace in the region, a matter that will negatively affect these negotiations. It calls upon the international community to immediately intervene to secure the deportees to their homeland.

Prime Minister Hospitalized With Bleeding Ulcer

LD1912072992 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Ministry of Information has issued the following statement: Mohamed Karim Lamrani, the prime minister of the Government of his majesty King Hassan II was removed to Ibnsina Hospital in Rabat this morning following bleeding resulting from an intestinal ulcer.

According to the doctors, Karim Lamrani's condition does not call for concern, and he will be able to resume his duties in eight days.

King Chairs Council of Ministers Budget Discussion

LD1712103492 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Ministry of Information statement issued in Fez on 16 December—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, today chaired at the royal palace in Fez a Council of Ministers meeting devoted to studying and approving the draft financial bill for 1993.

During this meeting, Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada gave an account of the draft financial bill for 1993 which focused on the state of the Moroccan economy, which has been able to stand fast in the face of a clear contraction in the world economy. The gross domestic product, which was affected to a great extent by the drought, recorded a negative result. The government must intervene in order to soften the effect of the drought on the rural areas by enabling the national fund for agricultural credit to reschedule overdue debts from farmers totalling 270 billion centimes.

In parallel, the balance of payments deficit has risen, due to some developments unfavorable to our exports and the rise in foodstuffs imports as a result of the drought. In contrast, our foreign currency reserves have risen from $3 billion to $3.4 billion. The budget deficit for 1992 will be 1.7 percent, while inflation was contained at a suitable level, totalling 5.7 percent. Our external debts have declined noticeably in relative terms.

The scope for 1993 and the main axes of the financial policy on which the draft financial bill was prepared is as follows:

First, the end of the phase of rescheduling our external debts, our country's openness on the financial market, making the dirham convertible at the level of current transactions, limiting inflation to a suitable level, and striving to achieve a 6 percent growth rate.

Second, the need to continue the effort of public investment as the draft bill provides for an 11 percent increase, support for the public sector, intensification of state activity in all social and cultural sectors, increasing investment allocations in favor of the Ministry of Housing, financial rehabilitation of public enterprises, and continued strengthening of domestic and external equilibriums. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Condemns 'Unfair' Campaign Against State

EA2012221892 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahhal, has stressed the need to maintain the cohesiveness of the internal front in the face of threats aimed against Sudan's identity, territorial integrity and cultural orientation. In an interview with SUDAN NOW magazine, the minister condemned the unfair and unfounded campaigns being waged in U.N. forums against Sudan under the pretext of human rights by the United States and Western countries. He referred to pressures and threats from those countries against the developing countries to gain the support of the latter for the legitimization of anti-Sudanese resolutions within the framework of the ideology of the new world order.

Sahhal said Sudan's doors had been and would continue to be open to anyone wishing to acquaint himself with the facts in Sudan.

The interview also touched on Sudan's relations with the Western countries and the United States, in addition to the situation in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

Assembly Speaker on Government Peace Efforts

EA2112112992 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, has said that the diplomatic activity and the tours in Africa conducted by the Sudanese delegations led by Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj are to clarify the Sudanese Government's efforts to effect just and durable peace through negotiations and dialogue, as well as to prepare the ground for a second round of negotiations. Mr. Khalifah expressed the hope that the tour would be a final formula for ending the war which had plagued the country for so long.

Referring to the reasons for the postponement of the negotiations, Khalifah stressed that the Government of Sudan had no role in this. He held the rebel movement responsible, particularly Garang's wing. He said Garang had left Kenya and that he had been deported due to his intransigence. He added that the government would lay no conditions for the negotiations. Indeed, it was interested in holding the negotiations as soon as possible. The government would continue its serious efforts with the Nigerian mediators to fix a date for the next round of talks.

Al-Bashir Comments on Aid, Hala'ib at Rally

EA2012190292 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, this morning addressed a mass rally at the gates of Al-Thawrah city in Omdurman at the end of the Omdurman governorate's conference. He received the recommendations of the conference. He pointed out that the meeting place of the citizens of Omdurman was the same as that used by the Khalifah, Abdullahi al-Ta'ayishi, as the headquarters of his high command during the battle of Karari, which had been a model of self-sacrifice. His excellency said [the people of] Omdurman had come out again today now that Sudan had regained its independence and unity and raised aloft the banners of Islam. He added that the inhabitants of Omdurman were duty bound to develop the city so that it could become the leading city. He stressed that the government would support the inhabitants and adopt all the recommendations of their conference.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir said the Sudanese people no longer needed relief supplies or aid as they had liberated their decisionmaking and freedom of choice. He said: We have been striving for peace and continue to do so. He said the sons of the homeland, particularly in the south, had stood with all their tribes against rebel [John] Garang.

Al-Bashir also referred, in his speech, to the many accusations leveled against Sudan by its enemies, stressing that these were untrue and their objective was to obstruct Sudan's advance.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir also referred to the talks on Hala'ib issue with the Egyptian Government, saying Sudan regarded borders as barriers drawn up by the colonialists to divide the Arab-Muslim nation. He stressed that Sudan did not want to see sons of this nation fighting each other, but rather to unite to fight Israel, which intended to build a greater state extending from the Euphrates to the Nile.

The leader of the revolution said we should not deviate from our chosen path and that the revolution's programs and plans continued to be fully implemented.

Commentary Views Dispute With Egypt on Hala'ib

EA1912161792 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Heroic Sudanese people. Hala'ib is a Sudanese province that occupies an eastern place on the border with Egypt. It was parcelled out within the framework of the political borders of Sudan after World War II. What happened to it then, is what is happening now, namely the issue of the right of sovereignty over all Sudanese territory. Two years after independence, an Egyptian vehicle appeared to remake the border. Signs of a political crisis arose. Sudan's right to the territory was confirmed and in this way Hala'ib remained Sudanese territory.

When the national salvation revolution came in a way that political Egypt did not like, it began to concoct excuses. Statements followed in succession, charging Sudan with harboring and training opponents and threatening Egypt's security. Political Egypt rode the wave of hostility, broadcasting to the public news of Sudan which it hated. Its media invade hostile circles with false reports and it whispers doubt into the ears of friends. It blames all the anomalies of the Arab homeland on Sudan.

When these conspiracies failed, political Egypt went back to scraping the old wound in Hala'ib, starting with the tricks of 1973 which (?deceived) the era of the May regime [Numayri's government] [passage indistinct]. Egypt supports the rebellion in a manner that political Egypt and Sudan both know. Perhaps the unjust resolution of the UN General Assembly condemning Sudan and the arrival of American forces in Somalia delighted political Egypt and it felt confident in the minority of Sudan's supporters. It sank in sleep and dreams and it was enticed by the heroic epics of the old conquests when Muhammad Ali Basha invaded Sudan in 1820. [passage omitted]

Sudan paid the blood of its sons to Egypt in its war with the Jews in 1967. It dressed the wound of defeat and, in 1973, it stood with it like a sword when it was cast out by the entire Arab assembly after it concluded the Camp David accord.

Some of the Egyptian press says falsely that Egypt's border with Israel has become secure and calm, and that the threat comes from Sudan. If the press forgot the tragedy, have the people of Egypt forgotten what the Jews did by killing, maiming, and destroying young people with narcotics and diseases, destroying life with decomposed fertilizers [as heard], and destroying the economy with counterfeit dollars?

Sudan has never been anyone's enemy throughout its history. Rather, hostilities come to it from others. If political Egypt listened to what Sudan said, it would not have got itself into a mess because Sudan, under the national salvation revolution, is a Sudan of Arabs and Muslims. It abolished visas, for its part, to reject political borders. It opened its land to investors and it granted the right of citizenship and possession. In this way, the people of Egypt and others should benefit from the achievements of Sudan, and not turn the area of Hala'ib into a graveyard of brothers.

Sudan does not want to walk over Egyptian land. Rather, God made room for it in the councils of Africa. But it wants Egypt to deal with things in the way that Sudan did—as a pioneer of its nation and a leader of peoples.

But its leaders (?hampered) it and they made it a (?burden) on Arabism. They brought it resources of ruin and led it away from its role. Sudan does not want anything from political Egypt except that it should follow the same refined method which it followed with Israel on the Taba problem for five years, until the international judiciary passed judgment in its favor on the evidence of Sudanese documents. Hence, if the judiciary in the joint committee [as heard] or the International Court passes judgment in its favor, then Sudan has no need of Hala'ib.

Sudan is capable of protecting its territory and its borders. Let political Egypt rest assured that the threat is not from Sudan, but from the one it relies upon for 80 percent of what it eats, namely wheat that comes from remote places, which it could have had from Sudan.

Over 1 Million Refugees Now in Country

AB2012155992 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 20 (AFP)—The number of foreign refugees in Sudan has increased due to a new influx in the past couple of months, to stand at 1,086,418, according to an official report issued here on Sunday [20 December].

Since October some 55,000 people had streamed in from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Chad and Uganda. That contrasted with the repatriation in the period January to November this year of 5,862 people, the report said.

The newcomers included 200 Somalis, whose request for political asylum was being considered, the report said.

Sudan has the biggest refugee population of any African country. Up to 86 percent come from Eritrea and Ethiopia, according to figures given earlier by General 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatim, minister of state for refugee affairs.

International aid bodies estimate that there are in addition more than three million Sudanese displaced in the country, out of a 26 million population, because of recurrent drought in some regions and continuing civil war in the south.

Tunisia

Israeli Deportation of Palestinians Condemned

LD1712212492 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli authorities' decision to deport more than 413 Palestinian citizens from the occupied territories an authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

Tunisia has received with great concern and strong indignation the Israeli authorities' decision to deport 413 Palestinian citizens and transport them by force from their land and away from their families. Such a serious step constitutes a flagrant violation of the minimum level of human rights and contradicts all ethical values and all international treaties, particularly the Geneva Treaty of 1949 on the protection of civil population under occupation. Also the decision constitutes a blatant challenge to the international community and a serious escalation that could jeopardize the peace process and current efforts to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Officials Welcome UN Intervention in Somalia

LD1612142892 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, and Hamid Alghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], today discussed issues concerning relations between Tunisia and the ICO, the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the situation in Somalia.

In a statement to TAP, Hamid Alghabid described relations between Tunisia and the ICO as excellent. He praised Tunisia's active role in supporting the organization and its work within it.

Regarding the Bosnia-Hercegovina problem and whether the ICO will bring new proposals to the meeting of the steering committee on former Yugoslavia, scheduled to be held in Geneva tomorrow [16 December], Alghabid said: We are committed to the resolutions of the ICO's extraordinary conference which was held in Jeddah on 1 and 2 December on this issue. The important thing for us is to stop the fighting. However, if that is impossible, Muslims have to be enabled to obtain weapons to defend themselves. Consequently, the embargo has to be lifted. The international community has to be asked to use force to end the Serbian aggression.

Hamid Alghabid expressed his satisfaction at the intervention of UN forces in Somalia with the aim of enabling the people to get much needed humanitarian aid. He went on to say: We also believe that this opportunity should be used to disarm uncontrolled groups—groups which are disturbing the peace. Efforts have to be made to achieve a national reconciliation by organizing a meeting between all the political leaders in the country. Hamid Alghabid said that effort would be the focus of a meeting that due to be held on 4 January in Addis Ababa.

Minister Commends Ties Between Ben Ali, Mubarak

NC1512165992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1306 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Tunis, 15 Dec (MENA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui has commended the strong fraternal ties linking Presidents Husni Mubarak and Ben Ali. He said that the two leaders are keeping an open channel for consultation and coordination on various issues that interest the two states and the Arab nation.

At a meeting today with an Egyptian journalist delegation in Tunis, Karoui described bilateral relations as distinctive and ever developing. He said that coordination and cooperation are real, effective, cover all aspects, and are not mere slogans. [passage omitted]

The Tunisian prime minister added that Egypt and Tunisia have adopted economic reform and liberation and are working to achieve economic development and democracy to bring about prosperity for the two peoples and confront the extremist movements that are trying to use economic conditions as a front to seize authority.

Karoui said that Egypt and Tunisia are fed up with the threats by the extremist groups that get support from Arab and non-Arab states. He added that certain states are coordinating their action and conspiring against us to disrupt our development. He underlined the need to stand up to these attempts.

In this context, the Tunisian prime minister denounced Sudanese-Iranian cooperation in training and exporting terrorist elements to Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria, in addition to other states, to disrupt peace and stability.

Prime Minister Karoui emphasized the need for uniting the Arab ranks and surmounting the adverse impacts of the Gulf war, particularly under the new world order, so that the lawful Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, can be pursued. [passage omitted]

Reviewing the domestic situation in Tunisia, Karoui said that his country has managed to confront violence, extremism, and terrorism by enforcing the law and enhancing the march of development and democracy.

He said Tunisia is supporting the private sector in various fields and pursuing a liberated economy through facilitating customs and taxation procedures.

Foreign Minister Ben Yahya on Maghreb Issues

PM2112141792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 92 p 6

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya by Munsif al-Sulaymi in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sulaymi] Some people believe that the Arab Maghreb Union's [UMA] progress is slow. What is your opinion?

[Ben Yahya] First, I do not share the view that the UMA's progress is slow, because it was established only four years ago, namely in February 1989. Organizations at such a level cannot be judged in such a way.

Second, I believe that all the member states—Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, and Mauritania—have assumed responsibility for the Union's presidency and have performed their duties—which reflects a certain political commitment and desire by the Maghreb leaderships to give a new impetus to joint Maghreb action. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sulaymi] Do you believe that Bill Clinton's assumption of the U.S. presidency will have an effect on the course of the dialogue with Libya, especially as relations between President Bush and Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have witnessed clashes, including at the personal level?

[Ben Yahya] Optimism is required, on the grounds that relations among states are based on interests and on resolving crises peacefully and in a civilized and logic manner. An open dialogue is currently being conducted at the UN General Assembly level to clarify the view regarding terrorism and the groups and states involved in it, so that views on the issue can be determined in line with with the UN Charter. And so that extremism and terrorism will not become a new ideology after the end of the era of ideologies in the world.

[Al-Sulaymi] The final statement of the Nouakchott summit emphasized the terrorism and extremism issue. How is the issue dealt with at the Maghreb level?

[Ben Yahya] The Maghreb states have substantially contributed to improving the regional organizations of which they are members—that is, at the Arab, African, Islamic, and nonaligned levels. It was proper for discussions to be held at the Maghreb level. And indeed they were held openly without any reference to any quarter. The discussions dealt with principles.

It is worth noting that an agreement was reached quickly among Maghreb officials at the recent Nouakchott summit. The statement was a reminder. It was not new with regard to the Maghreb states, because the question concerns the states' sovereignty, stability, and territorial integrity. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sulaymi] President Ben Ali has emphasized that Tunisian-French relations are friendly despite the the opposition's activities on French territory. How is the situation with France at present?

[Ben Yahya] I believe that President Ben 'Ali's statement does not need further explanation. It is clear, and relations between the two countries are distinct. And there is no crisis between the Tunisian and French Governments. And I will hold regular meetings with my colleague the French foreign minister within the framework of the [joint] higher committee, whose meetings will be held in the next year. This is in addition to the regular meetings of the specialized committees.

It can be said that coordination and ties between the two states have reached a level of political maturity, because we see France as an influential state in the economic European sector. And Tunisia is an influential state which has its role in the UMA, the Arab world, and Africa. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Egyptian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive

JN1912165192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Manama, 19 Dec (WAKH)—Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the brotherly Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Manama today, along with a delegation, on a four-day official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sidqi will hold talks and explore prospects for reinforcing the existing close economic and trade ties between the two brotherly countries. The two sides will also discuss Gulf, Arab and world developments, and other issues of common interest.

The Egyptian delegation comprises Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Engineer Hanbalilah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities and urban communities; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Eng. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of industry; Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Ahmad Radwan, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Eng. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and others, including a team of journalists.

Meet With Amir

JN1912104292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1705 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Manama, 19 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah this evening received visiting Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi of the brotherly Arab Republic of Egypt and his delegation. [passage omitted]

Their highnesses stressed Bahrain's interest in increased cooperation with Egypt, particularly in the economic and trade fields. They lauded Egypt's outstanding contributions, under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, to the advancement of Arab and Islamic causes and Arab-Muslim solidarity.

His highness the amir, the prime minister, and Dr. Sidqi discussed the state of brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries, Gulf and Arab developments, the Middle East peace process, and international issues of mutual concern.

Dr. Sidqi thanked their highnesses for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation in Bahrain. He emphasized that the Arab Republic of Egypt would like to see enhanced cooperation with Bahrain in all fields. Dr. Sidqi noted the visible role Bahrain plays in Gulf, Arab, and international affairs, and the standing the country has attained as a financial and banking center, both regionally and globally. The Egyptian prime minister wished Bahrain further and sustained progress and development. [passage omitted]

Official Talks Held

JN2012152092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—The Bahraini side, headed by His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, and the Egyptian side, headed by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, held a round of official talks in Manama today. [passage omitted]

Following the talks, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi made a statement in which he praised the talks he held with His Highness Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah as constructive and fruitful. He said that his highness the prime minister briefed him on all issues raised in the region, particularly those pertaining to the Gulf Cooperation Council, the peace process in the Middle East, and the situation of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi added that they also discussed the strong relations between the two fraternal countries, describing them as very distinguished in all areas. He pointed out that they agreed to hold bilateral meetings between ministers of both countries to promote cooperation between Bahrain and Egypt in all areas. In his statement, he announced that he had signed with his highness the prime minister an agreement to form a joint committee between Bahrain and Egypt, which will be the beginning of extensive, mutual action between the two countries.

Regarding the volume of trade exchange between Bahrain and Egypt, the Egyptian prime minister said that the two countries' economy ministers would hold meetings today and tomorrow to discuss the possibility of increasing trade and economic exchange and promoting industrial cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the Republic of Egypt, stressing that Bahrain, represented by His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, has a strong desire to increase the volume of trade. He added that the joint committee, which both sides have agreed to form, will be cochaired by the two countries' foreign ministers.

For his part, His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah praised the talks he held with the Egyptian prime minister and said they were positive and constructive and will reinforce the distinguished brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples. He pointed out that Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Bahrain was very positive and will open up new spheres of cooperation in various areas, especially in economic, trade, development, and industrial areas.

His highness the prime minister expressed his happiness with establishing an exhibition for Egyptian products in Bahrain which will open tomorrow, Monday, pointing

out that the exhibition is a fruit of the close cooperation between Bahrain and its sister, Egypt.

His highness also stressed the growing, deep-rooted, and historic relations between the two brotherly countries and peoples and explained Egypt's pioneering role and its support for our Arab and Islamic nation's causes, its efforts to restore Arab solidarity, and its constructive and positive contribution to Middle East peace endeavors in various international circles.

Egyptian Delegation Departs

JN2212111292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH)—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi left Manama today after an official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

Leading those who saw off Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi were His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, His Highness Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, ministry under secretaries, and senior Bahraini civil and military officials.

During his visit, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi held official talks with Bahraini officials on the means of cementing and bolstering fraternal bilateral ties. He also reviewed and discussed with them the latest Arab and international developments.

Amir Leaves for Abu Dhabi To Attend GCC Summit

JN2112120092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, left for Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, at noon today to lead the Bahraini delegation to the 13th summit of the Higher Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which will be held there 21-23 December. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Retrieval of Equipment From Iraq Continues

PM1812141792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Dec 92 p 5

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Kuwaiti Military Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Retrieval of Stolen Equipment Takes Six Months"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—An authoritative Kuwaiti military source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Kuwait is still receiving military equipment and ammunition stolen by Iraqi invasion forces during their occupation of Kuwait via the al-'Abdali center for retrieving Kuwaiti property from Iraq.

The source pointed out that most of the equipment and weapons retrieved from Iraq belong to the Kuwaiti Air Force and include rockets, radars, heavy equipment, and ammunition. The source said that their retrieval will take over six months.

The military source described the retrieved military items as mostly unusable (scrap) and deliberately destroyed by the brutal Iraqi regime's authorities. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Deputy Amir Receives Written Messages From Bush

JN2212110392 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 22 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, has received two written messages from U.S. President George Bush.

The messages were delivered by U.S. ambassador to Qatar Kenton Keith during a reception accorded to him by Shaykh Hamad in Doha today.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the two messages concern a variety of international issues of common interest as well as bilateral cooperation and friendship.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Call From Egypt's Mubarak

JN1912204592 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates, may God preserve him, today received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt. They exchanged views and consulted on current conditions in the region, the latest developments, and the Egyptian president's efforts to contain differences among the Arab brothers and realize solidarity and unity of ranks, in pursuance of the Arab nation's supreme interests.

Yemen

Peace Council Condemns Israeli Deportations

JN1912140892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity [YCPS] has condemned the Zionist occupation authorities' deportation of 418 Palestinian citizens from their territories in a despotic manner that conflicts with human rights and international norms and laws.

In a statement issued today, the YCPS urged all good people in our country, all Arab and international organizations, and all forces that love peace and freedom to voice their solidarity with the Palestinian people, and to condemn all the arbitrary and repressive actions by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian Arab people.

Yasir 'Arafat Pays Official Visit

Confers With President Salih

JN1612194492 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, met with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, this morning [words indistinct]. They discussed [words indistinct] the stumbling peace process, Israel's intransigence, and escalating terrorism by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people [words indistinct].

During the meeting, they also discussed developments in the Arab arena, as well as other international issues. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stressed Yemen's firm support for the Palestinian people's just struggle under the leadership of the PLO to achieve independence and establish a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Meets With al-'Arashi

JN1712120792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Judge 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, Presidential Council member and head of the Higher Elections Committee, today met with brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, state of Palestine president.

At the start of the meeting, the brother Presidential Council member welcomed the Palestinian leader. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the current circumstances facing the Palestinian revolution in the light of the Zionist fanaticism vis-a-vis the Palestinian people's valiant *intifadah*.

The brother Presidential Council member and head of the Higher Elections Committee explained to the Palestinian president the steps taken by the Higher Elections Committee to prepare for the general elections in our country, scheduled for 27 April 1993. He stressed that all steps are progressing according to plan and that the elections will be held as scheduled.

The meeting was attended by Nasr Yusuf, Fatah Central Committee member, and Yahya Rabah, state of Palestine ambassador in Sanaa.

Speaks With Prime Minister

JN1712125292 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today met with brother Yasir 'Arafat, state of Palestine president. They discussed developments in the Palestine question in the light of the peace talks and the escalation in the Palestinian people's valiant *intifadah* in the occupied territories against the Zionist entity.

They also discussed a number of issues and developments in the Arab and world arenas.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. Hasan Makki, first deputy prime minister, and Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, minister of youth and sports. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by brothers Nasr Yusuf, Fatah Central Committee member; Yahya Rabah, state of Palestine ambassador in Sanaa; and Brigadier General Bu-Humayd [not further identified], commander of the Palestinian revolution forces in our country.

Meets With Council Speaker

JN1712201592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives, met this afternoon with brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who is currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on ways to enhance the brotherly relations of cooperation between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions in the service of the fraternal Yemeni and Palestinian people.

They also discussed the circumstances being experienced by the Palestinian revolution, the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and the escalation of their valiant *intifadah*. They also discussed the progress of the peace negotiations, the steps taken on this road, and the difficulties facing this process.

The brother speaker of the Council of Representatives stressed the Yemeni people's continued support for the Palestinian people on the basis of the common denominators between the two, so that the Palestinian people can pursue their just struggle until they achieve all their legitimate objectives.

The meeting was attended by brother Nasr Yusuf, member of the Fatah Central Committee; Brigadier

General Abu-Hamayd, commander of the Palestinian revolution forces in our country; Brigadier General Abu-al-'Abd Khattab, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and commander of the Palestinian forces in Aden; and Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1912091292 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Sanaa last night after a working visit to our country. During the visit he met with brother officials at the political leadership, whom he briefed on latest developments on both Palestinian and Arab arenas, as well as (?political) issues of joint interest.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', the Palestinian president expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to our country. He indicated that he [words indistinct] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council. He affirmed that he briefed them on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the Zionist enemy's repressive and terrorist practices against the children, women, and people of Palestine, the latest of which being the ugly crime which [words indistinct] reflect [words indistinct] terrorist Rabin government's stand on the Palestinian people and their just cause. [Words indistinct] the new Zionist crime is a blow to the peace process. In this regard, he indicated that the Palestinian delegation in the U.S. capital [words indistinct] during its meeting with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State [words indistinct].

Concluding his statement, brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat (?praised) our country's stand—leadership, government, and people—on [words indistinct] blessed Palestinian intifadah [words indistinct] is not in defense of Palestinian territory only, but also in defense of holy Jerusalem [words indistinct].

The Palestinian president was seen off by Dr. 'Abdallah Barakat, member of the advisory council and representative of the Presidential Council's presence; brother Yahya Rabah, Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa, and a number of [words indistinct].

Tribal Gatherings Reported Around Sanaa

PM2112103092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Hammud Munsir and Lutfi Shatarah report: "Reports of Armed Tribal Gatherings Increase Tension in Sanaa"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden—Sanaa is witnessing extensive tribal, political, and popular dialogues and consultations after the meeting called for by the Yemeni Presidential Council failed as a result of the national congress parties' noncongruence and after increasing reports of tribal gatherings belonging to various parties in and around the capital—which could lead the political conflict to assume a different and perennially dangerous character.

Reports said that Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, chief of the Hashid tribe and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, has for several days been holding meetings with chiefs of the tribes belonging to the Hashid tribes. These meetings are coinciding with with cautious mobilization of tribesmen. [passage omitted]

An authoritative Socialist Party source had accused Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar of seeking to undermine democracy and of constantly opposing the establishment of civilian institutions. The source also said that "the tribal gatherings and the distribution of weapons reveal contrived intentions which threaten Yemen's unity and democracy." [passage omitted]

Ba'th Party Command Denounces Somalia Resolution

JN2112184892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 92

["Text" of statement by spokesman for the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] On 8 Jumada al-Akhir 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 3 December 1992, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 794, giving U.S. imperialism and its allies carte blanche to undermine Somalia's independence and national sovereignty, repress and enslave its people, and loot their resources.

This brazen act of interference was dubbed Operation Restore Hope, when, in actual fact, the invasion set out to reintroduce hideous colonialism to the African continent. The occupation of Somalia was calculated to gain control of oil supply routes and world trade lanes, and to compromise the security and independence of the Arab and African states of the region.

What Somalia needs is humanitarian assistance and mediation efforts to sort out the conflicts among its warring factions. The Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Organization of African Unity, the Nonaligned nations, and the international community were duty bound to make material assistance available to the stricken Somali people. They would thus have followed Iraq's example when it supplied Somalia with tractors, an oil refinery, and funds, and applied for permission to resume oil exports.

The U.S. imperialists and their allies and agents, who have lined up behind the U.S. aggression on Iraq and sent troops to Hafar al- Batin, are now falling over themselves to send forces to desecrate Somali territory under the pretext of getting aid through to the country's people. However, they have failed to do a thing to see Somalia through its plight over the past few years and ease the suffering of women, children, and the elderly [words indistinct].

The Security Council resolution recalls the arbitrary and unjust resolutions it passed against the people of Iraq, and demonstrates anew the council's subordination to American imperialism and that it is now a pliable tool in its hands to advance vicious schemes. Issued at the behest of the U.S. Administration and in total disregard of the wishes of the Somali and neighboring peoples, the Somalia resolution dovetails with Washington's agenda. It marks a serious precedent that undermines the principles of legitimacy and stability and injects an element of chaos in international relations, as well as belittling the independence and interests of other nations.

The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party condemns this resolution and the subsequent military invasion of Somali territory as a threat to the security and stability of the entire region. It calls on the peoples and governments of the Arab, African, and Islamic nations, and all countries and free souls around the world, as well as political forces and humanitarian bodies to show solidarity the people of Somalia and help them defend their independence, sovereignty, and national unity. The national command further calls for exposing and resisting the sinister, belligerent imperialist scheme that seeks the reintroduction of hegemony and imperialism in a most hideous shape. It calls on world governments to refrain from sending any military forces or providing any form of backing for this neo-colonialist invasion in order to deny the transparent U.S. aggression any cover.

God is great; victory to striving nations; defeat and disgrace to U.S. imperialism and its allies and agents.

SAIRI Claims Chemical Weapons Being Concealed

LD1812145892 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—The Iraqi regime has concealed chemical weapons in farms near Baghdad to prevent their discovery by United Nations experts, Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) revealed here Thursday.

A SAIRI source said Baghdad was moving its enriched uranium and chemical weapons by trucks throughout different cities so that UN inspectors could not spot them.

A team of United Nations weapons experts made their last inspection in 1992 on December 13th, but the inspections uncovered no weapons-related material.

Palestinian Envoy Says 'Struggle' To Continue

JN1812094692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Iraq, has underlined the Palestinian people's ability and steadfastness in the face of the savage Zionist onslaught and attempts to weaken the PLO's political stand.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH today, al-Ahmad said the new Zionist oppressive campaign will only strengthen the determination of the Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah to face the enemy. He added: Yitzhaq Rabin fabricated a clamor over the kidnapping of an occupation soldier, which was not the first of its kind, and took advantage of it to implement his oppressive policies, which escalated after his return to power.

The Palestinian ambassador said he is convinced that Rabin will not be able to implement the campaign which he promised two days before the body of the Zionist policeman was found.

Al-Ahmad said there is a clear Palestinian decision to escalate the confrontation against the Zionist enemy, who wants to circumvent the intifadah and the people's rights.

He said: Expanding the confrontation constitutes the decisive response against the settlement negotiations, which we were forced to enter and which will not make us stop the intifadah and the armed struggle that started in 1965 before the achievement of all of our objectives.

He added: What was taken by force can only be restored by force, and that the political battle seeks to expose the falsity of the claims of the Zionist enemy, which denies our people's rights.

Turkish Democratic Left Party Leader Arrives

JN1812200992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—Bulent Ecevet, leader of the Turkish Democratic Left Party, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a several-day visit to the country.

Mr. Ecevet will discuss with government and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party officials cooperation between his party and the Ba'th party to advance the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Meets With Saddam

JN1912121392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husan today received Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Turkish Democratic Left Party, accompanied by (Dirya Sunki), director of the MILLIYET newspaper in Ankara, and (Bulent Hag Yilmaz), the newspaper's parliamentary correspondent.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Praises Saddam, Nation

JN1912170092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1527 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Turkish Democratic Left Party, has described President Saddam Husayn as a unique man, who has capably led his country toward glory, strength, and dignity.

In a statement to INA after meeting with President Saddam Husayn today, he said that they discussed important issues of interest to Iraq, the region, and the world with an analytical and accurate manner, taking into account the real interests of nations in the first place.

He added that he would accurately convey President Saddam Husayn's conversation to the Turkish public, away from external influence.

He also praised what was achieved by the Iraqis in the field of construction despite the unjust economic blockade imposed on the them, stressing that what was achieved indicates the Iraqis' capability, their adherence to national values, their sincere effort to rebuild their country, and their love for it.

Bulent Ecevit also said that facts undoubtedly indicate that Iraq is restoring its economic [word indistinct] on the basis of the principle of self-sufficiency.

He stressed that his visit to Iraq, his third fruitful one, will contribute to strengthening relations between the two neighborly peoples.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN1912184992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Turkish Democratic Left Party, and his accompanying delegation.

The officials reviewed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Turkish Democratic Left Party, and explored ways of promoting them in the service of the two neighborly and friendly countries.

They also tackled the situation in the region and the international arena, relations between Iraq and Turkey, threats against the two countries in particular and the region in general, and the policies pursued by the Western forces.

'Aziz then reviewed the results of the unjust blockade, which the Bush administration and its Western allies insist on imposing on the patient, anguished Iraqi people.

For his part, Ecevit stressed the need to maintain friendly relations between Iraq and Turkey in the face of dangers and threats to [word indistinct] and the region's countries.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, deputy official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau.

Comments on Embargo

JN2112154692 Baghdad INA in English 1525 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 21, INA—Mr. Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Turkish Democratic Left Party, stressed that the unjust embargo imposed on the people of Iraq has also affected the Turkish people.

In a statement to AL-IRAQ daily of Baghdad, Mr. Ecevit said the economic blockade was a humanitarian issue, that inflicted big harm on the Iraqi people and demanded serious efforts to end the Iraqi people's suffering.

The Turkish politician stressed his party opposition to the presence of foreign troops on Turkish territories explaining that this presence did not just threaten Iraq's independence but risked Turkey's unity as well.

Mr. Ecevit said the real objective behind the presence of foreign forces was to create problems between the two countries.

Mr. Ecevit confirmed his party's rejection to the economic embargo on Iraq and foreign presence in Turkish territories stressing, that the party would certainly vote against extending the mandate of these forces in Turkey.

Industry Minister, Jordanian Minister Discuss Ties

JN2012164092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization Lieutenant General Hamdani al-Sa'di has received the visiting Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib.

The officials explored ways to step up co-operation between the two brotherly countries. They also talked about the planned electricity grid to connect the eastern Arab states. Jordan and Iraq are key partners in the project.

The Jordanian minister told Lt. Gen. al-Sa'di he was impressed by the performance of the Iraqis in the battle of defiance and reconstruction. The Iraqi experience should be a source of pride for all decent Arabs and other well-meaning people in the world, Abu-al-Raghib stated.

389 Deportees Arrive in Safwan From Kuwait

JN2012191592 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Al-Basrah—The authorities imposed on Kuwait have deported another group of Iraqi and Arab nationals as a result of the unjust measures the regime took against them.

A new group of 389 Iraqis and Arab nationals from Jordan, Palestine, and Sudan arrived in the Safwan area in al-Basrah last night. The group includes more than 70 families, which were harassed in Kuwait and deported by the authorities of the imposed regime.

The group also includes nine people, whom the imposed authorities had imprisoned on several false charges.

In statements to AL-THAWRAH's office in al-Basrah, which received them in Safwan, a number of the deportees expressed their happiness at arriving in the country after they faced a series of sufferings and torture in the regime's jails. A Sudanese deportee, who declined to be named because he has some brothers in Kuwait, disclosed some of the regime's brutal practices inside the prisons—practices which exceed those of the most brutal and racist states. Parts of his body were burned and his nails were extracted on charges that he collaborated with the Iraqi forces. They also detained his family, which is still held in the regime's prisons.

Ba'th Security Personnel Given Immunity

JN2212081892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] has learned that the Revolution Command Council today issued a decree banning the interrogation of members of the party and popular patrols charged by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party with the task of conducting security and observation missions under the slogan: "The People's Guards Never Sleep To Establish Security and Provide Tranquility For People." The decree stipulates that these members should not be subjected to any legal proceedings for confronting thieves, those who infringe on security and order, and deserters of army service, even if the confrontation results in the injury or death of the thieves and those who infringe on security and order.

INA also learned that comrade Khalid Ghadhun Rikhis, an active member of the al-Milad group, of the al-Fida' Section, of [Baghdad's] the Sa'd Branch of the Ba'th party, opened fire at a thief and hit him. He was remanded in custody by an investigation officer for that action. The leader president, may God preserve him, ordered his immediate release. He also ordered that he be honored with the Medal of Bamber Medal of Valor and granted 5,000 dinars in appreciation of his courage, commitment to his national duties, and confrontation of those who infringe on security and order.

Kurdish Chief Urges People To Thwart 'Gangs'

JN1912162092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barmani, head of the Executive Council of the [Kurdish] Autonomous Region, has urged the populations of the territory to thwart the plans of the misguided gangs who use public money for their base purposes and to promote enemy plans.

In a statement to INA today, he said the agent gangs now use public money, including electricity bills, for illegitimate functions.

Al-Barmani urged the populations in the Autonomous Region to settle their electricity bills according to Ministry of Industry and Minerals instructions, which call for an indefinite postponement of payment. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives Cable Announcing Bridge Completion

JN2012190492

[Editorial report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 20 December carries the

text of a five-minute cable from Lieutenant General Hussyn Kamil Hasan, the man "in charge of industry and oil" to President Saddam Hussyn, informing him that "your sons in the military industrialization, the corps of al-Faw Public Enterprise—the reconstruction of Iraq establishment—assisted by your sons in the Iron and Steel Public Enterprise, and Ibn-Maqid Project, would like to bring to your excellency the glad tidings of their completion of the northern highway bridge in al-Basrah Governorate."

Noting that the bridge received "direct and devastating hits during the American-Atlantic aggression on our beloved Iraq," the cable goes on to catalogue in technical detail the damage done to the facility. Hasan then informs the president that "in the face of technical difficulties, complications, and the scarcity of ordinarily imported materials, your sons in military industrialization began work to complete this massive bridge on 1 February 1992, relying on efficient, home grown expertise and materials." He further notes that the bridge has been completed ahead of schedule in 11 months.

Hussyn Kamil Hasan's cable stresses that in rebuilding this particular facility, President Saddam Hussyn's men in military industrialization took on "a tough job on the bridge that was worst hit, armed with a huge load of the trust of the leader engineer Saddam Hussyn."

The cable concludes by declaring that "history will condemn all dastardly acts committed by enemies against the great Iraqi people, and, God willing, their unjust embargo will turn into fuel for building Iraq—the nation of creativity and of miracle workers."

Cabinet Reviews Economy, Approves 1993 Budget

JN1912171092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session today under Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi and in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. In today's session, the council discussed the 1993 state budget, which includes the investment plan and the current and projected budget for government departments and the socialist sector.

The council also reviewed the economic situation during 1992, which witnessed the Iraqis' unmatched insistence on confronting the economic blockade, despite the determination of the states of aggression to tighten it.

The first challenge came from the Iraqis' implementation of the basic strategic projects, including the Saddam River, which have been implemented by foreign companies. They also repaired river banks and implemented the al-Jazirah irrigation project, which are aimed at promoting the agricultural sector that is viewed as a main key to breaking the unjust economic blockade. Leader President Saddam Hussyn's instructions to support the agricultural sector greatly contributed to increasing production.

The council also discussed the state budget in light of the following considerations:

Breaking the economic blockade begins from the inside and by activating the economic sectors, in accordance with priorities contained in the leader president's message on 12 August 1992, which stressed the importance of increasing production by using revenues in the best way, finding domestic alternatives at acceptable levels, and stressing continued support for basic food commodities.

After the discussion, the council recommended that the 1993 state budget be approved.

Saddam Gives Plots of Land to Tikrit Families

JN2212111992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Hussyn has ordered the allocation of plots of land for housing purposes to people with fixed salaries living in apartments in Tikrit District, Salah-al-Din Governorate.

During a meeting today with the 347 families covered by this noble gesture, Salah-al-Din Governor Fadil Salfiq al-'Azzawi said the leader president has ordered that the plots of land be distributed free of charge, plus 5,000 dinars for each family, in addition to the Real Estate Bank down payment. [passage omitted]

Standoff Continues; Deportees Said To Move South

SLA Denies Firing

TA2112140492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] spokesman has denied reports that two of the deportees were wounded by shots fired by its soldiers. [passage omitted]

Court To Reconvene 22 Dec

TA2112163492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The seven judges from the High Court of Justice will reconvene tomorrow morning at 1100 [0900 GMT] to discuss the appeal submitted by Attorney 'Imad Dikwar, in which he requested that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] be ordered not to shoot at the deportees, thus endangering their lives. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that several dozen families of the deportees have asked Attorney Le'a Tsemel to bring forward the court hearing on the legality of the deportations.

Last week, the judges gave the government 30 days to reply to the appeals, and Attorney Tsemel now asserts that the hearing should be held immediately, in light of the concern about the deportees' well- being.

Deportees Returning to Camp

TA2112164292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Defense establishment sources have confirmed that the deportees have turned back and are now returning to their encampment approximately 3 km north of the Zammarayya crossing. This was reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

An Associated Press correspondent reported that at approximately 1500 this afternoon, the deportees made another attempt to move south from the crossing, and stopped after SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers fired several shells and directed heavy gunfire at them. The deportees held a consultation among themselves, and afterwards their spokesman, Dr. al-Rantisi, said that they were returning to their camp for the night because of the harsh weather conditions.

Government Asked To Open Zone

TA2112182092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The Meretz faction has called on the government to permit the deportees to enter south Lebanon's security zone. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this was stipulated in the faction's decision. The prime minister met the Meretz ministers and faction chairman this afternoon for a short meeting. He briefed them on the situation of the deportees in Lebanon. The prime minister said that the deportees were situated one km from the Zammarayya crossing in the northern part of the security zone, and that as far as was known, none of them had been hurt.

IDF Reinforces, Advances Units

TA2212062592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] have reinforced units and moved them forward.

Additional IDF units were flown by helicopter to the Lebanese border yesterday and from there transported to the security zone. The soldiers were equipped with tear gas, clubs, smoke grenades, and additional means to be used in the event that the deportees reach the pass itself and it becomes necessary to stop their advance into the security zone. The SLA soldiers have blocked off the crossing point. They erected barriers and a barbed-wire fence on the road leading to the point. A Lebanese source said that the Israeli soldiers mined the road leading to the area. The IDF is investigating speculation that Hizballah equipped some of the deportees with weapons.

IDF elements have expressed surprise over claims voiced by the media and the public that the timetable of the deportation could have been shortened by using helicopters and carrying out the removal via several additional passes and not through a single crossing point. The military sources noted that it is clear to anyone with common sense that the weather conditions which prevailed on the day and night of the expulsion excluded the possibility of using helicopters. Furthermore, conditions at the other passes were complicated, and using them would have made the transfer into southern Lebanon more difficult. According to these sources, the deportation was a large-scale logistic operation involving operational and legal aspects and conducted under the constraints of very bad weather. Military and security sources reemphasize that the IDF and SLA used every means at their disposal to prevent the return of the deportees southward toward the security zone.

The defense establishment is awaiting the High Court of Justice's ruling today on appeals submitted regarding the deportees' cause.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 22 December adds that "yesterday the IDF confirmed that the SLA had indeed fired several tank and mortar shells and used light weapons as warning shots directed at a distance of several hundred meters from the deportees convoy."]

Officials Comment on Deportation Situation

'Determined' To Stop Return

TA2112132492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, who will soon be appointed the prime minister's military secretary, said that Israel is determined to prevent the deportees from returning to its territory. He was speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem.

A South Lebanese Army [SLA] source said that water cannons and tear gas have been brought to the border crossing and may possibly be used to repel the deportees if they attempt to approach the crossing.

Lebanon Said Responsible for Deportees

TA2112140192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, estimated that the deportations may lead to more attempts to carry out terrorist attacks in the near future, in order to prove that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has not been affected, although in our opinion the organization has been dealt a very severe blow. Yatom said that in the medium to long range future, the deportations would bring about a reduction in the level of violence, and enable the authorities to conduct a more efficient war against terrorism.

Maj. Gen. Yatom told our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] considered Lebanon responsible for the hundreds of deportees on its territory. He asserted that the Lebanese were exploiting the situation for propaganda purposes. The IDF would use every measure at its disposal to prevent the deportees from returning south, he said.

Peres Explains Deportations

TA2212035492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has sent a message to his counterparts abroad in which he said that Israel is determined to fight terror. At the same time, he said, Israel would pursue its efforts to make progress toward peace. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that the letters are part of a comprehensive effort the government is making to explain Israel's position regarding the expulsions.

Egyptian Envoy Comments

TA2112194592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gut]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mohammed Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, employed diplomatic language today in saying that when the Labor party assumed power, Egypt expected it to promote the peace process. We thought that now we would have a partner for a dialogue, he said, and we supported Rabin's policies. On the other hand, when we oppose something, we must make our voice heard, such as on the issue of deportation.

[Begin Basyuni recording in English] On the one hand, we appreciate the new policy of the Israeli Government, and when the Israeli Government came to power we really felt that we have a partner to talk with. But it does not mean that if we do not agree for some policy, I think we must express our views about this policy, like the deportations. [end recording]

Basyuni expressed the hope that the High Court of Justice would revoke the deportation orders and find a way out of the mess. [passage omitted on Arab reactions]

Chief of Staff Comments

TA1912134892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Barag, the chief of staff, by Dalya Ya'ir and army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—live]

[Excerpt] [Ya'ir] Good Sabbath to Chief of Staff Ehud Barag and to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. We are talking here in the wake of the deportation drama, which is not over yet. In recent months we have witnessed a change in the form of violence in the territories. There is a transition to the use of weapons, and this week we witnessed a well-planned operation of kidnapping and murdering border policeman Nissim Toledano. God bless his soul. We now have the deportations on the agenda. Is this expulsion act not tantamount to admitting military helplessness?

[Barag] I would first like to extend the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Major Toledano, who was brutally murdered by his kidnappers. The expulsion is one of a series of moves, and it is our duty, in the framework of our responsibilities, to bring about a decrease in violence and to do everything we can to ensure security. Now especially, it is our duty to try to cut off the series of actions perpetrated in recent weeks. This is how we arrived at the use of this tool, in a way which is not a deportation, in fact. What we have done in fact, is remove the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members from Israel's territory for a definite period of time, in order to prevent them from inciting and encouraging terrorist actions.

[Ya'ir] Does this not mean that we are dragged after terror rather than initiating things? Is there no feeling of loss of initiative to an extent?

[Barag] No. This move of removing from the state's borders does not come in place of the chase we conduct

after the squads of wanted people who perpetrate the shooting incidents. We continue to chase them. In my opinion, we have also scored achievements on this track of chases, which is the main track of the fight against the direct aspect of terrorism.

[Menashe] This idea of removal for a definite period of time, as you call it, was raised by you at the time, in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee too, and was rejected.

[Barak] This idea was raised several times in recent years. At that time it did not seem fit for implementation by the political and judicial authorities. The gravity of the emergency situation, which has been escalating in recent days, led to reconsideration of the idea, which then led to the decision to use it, and rightly so, I believe.

[Menashe] Do you estimate that the expulsion of 400 [as Israel] instigators can calm the area down?

[Barak] No single move will totally eliminate this phenomenon of the unfit dish with which we are coping, but it is surely a very effective preventive tool. At this point in time, in view of the grave activity by these Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations, we saw fit to use this tool. I am sure that in the very short term, today or tomorrow, it can even raise the level of [anti-Israeli] activity, but in the longer run, within the next few weeks or months, it will make an important contribution to stopping the wave of terrorism we recently witnessed.

[Ya'ir] You are saying that in the short term there may be another action by these radical organizations. What will happen then? Will we expel 800 people then?

[Barak] We find ourselves in an ongoing struggle on many fronts and tracks. It is clear that just as we chase the murder squads and try to capture them, so they try to perpetrate terrorist acts. I do not think we are going to use this tool of removal for a definite period of time too often, but I do not want to give terrorists, or instigators, or the operators of terrorist cadres an insurance policy that they will be immune in the future against renewed use of this tool.

[Menashe] Intifadah leaders talk about 10 angry days. You have beefed up forces, imposed curfews and blockades. How long can that situation go on, and have additional decisions been made?

[Barak] The distancing of hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists is a very heavy blow to their operational wing and the supporting environment. Implementing that blow justifies the beefing up of forces, which was initially decided on because of the fifth anniversary of the intifadah some 10 days ago. Maintaining those beefed up forces will continue several days longer, or as long as is needed, and the operational and overall considerations will decide the scope of when and where we lift the curfews and other limitations.

[Ya'ir] Returning to the expression you used, distancing for a limited time. That time could serve as a fantastic training period. They can now go and train at Hizbullah bases, return here after a certain period better trained, and participate in attacks.

[Barak] In our view, their distancing outside the state makes a much more useful contribution to restoring calm and preventing a new wave of terror than keeping them in camps here. As to the possibility that they will train with Hizbullah, I say that we will deal with that when we come to it. Let's wait and see. It is more feasible that they will be among Palestinians in Lebanon or outside Lebanon.

[Menashe] The deportation to Lebanon met difficulties due to the refusal of the Lebanese Army. Is there not concern about a conflict with the Lebanese Army?

[Barak] In my view, there is no danger that a confrontation will develop with the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

Police Minister Comments

TA1901213092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by correspondent Dalya Ya'ir—live]

[Excerpts] [Ya'ir] Police Minister Moshe Shahal is in our Haifa studio. Good morning and a good Sabbath to you.

[Shahal] Good morning and a good Sabbath.

[Ya'ir] Israel has been condemned by the UN Security Council. Even the United States notes that the expulsion plays into the hands of those who want to foil the peace process and unfairly burdens Lebanon, while the reaction by our UN ambassador sounds somewhat apologetic. He said that the Muslims' violence is ignored. What is your reaction to the condemnation?

[Shahal] I am sorry that the United Nations has not yet freed itself from the influence of anti-Israeli condemnations and has not objectively addressed itself to the problems, as expressed by some countries, of radicalization among the extreme Muslim circles. It is an ongoing process, which we had hoped would change after the United Nations canceled the resolution equating Zionism with racism. However, it seems that in such cases the automatic majority still scores an achievement that is not compatible with reality, with the need to defend common international interests against people who raise the banner and maximize the concept of liquidating people, both Jews and Arabs—anybody of whatever sex, race, or religion—who oppose their views. A balance was necessary to have a degree of respect or appreciation for a resolution by an honorable institution such as the UN Security Council.

[Ya'ir] Are you afraid that this resolution will harm our relations with the United States?

[Shahal] I do not think so. I think that on the main issue, that of continuing the peace process, the United States' clear interest is compatible with ours. The basic U.S. conception is that it is necessary to find a solution to the regional problem. This deportation followed actions that actually raise serious questions as to with whom we talk. Those Palestinians with whom we will need to reach an agreement, those Palestinians who are themselves a target for liquidation by the Islamic Jihad and Hamas, should draw the appropriate conclusion, rise, and courageously express their position so that they can convince us that we have a partner for talks and for the signing of an agreement.

From my personal experience, from talks with several leaders in the territories, in tete-a-tete conversations they beg us to protect them from Hamas. They say they are afraid to express an opinion for fear for their lives. Add to this the report on the intention to assassinate Faysal al-Husayni. It is no secret that there were several cases of a desire to kill some of the Palestinian leaders who conduct negotiations with us. Some of these attempts were foiled by the security forces, while others, miraculously, did not materialize.

[Ya'iri] We know this, after all, so why did the Israeli Government, at least the Labor government, not find it right to say clearly before that we will hold contacts with the PLO?

[Shahal] Look, this political question has various aspects which are reflected in the large political spectrum in Israel. It is pointless to start an argument of this kind now. Personally, I think we should say that we demand to hear from the Palestinians, including the PLO, clear statements on several practical questions, primarily, their attitude toward terror. [passage omitted]

[Ya'iri] In conclusion, let me: Today, too, after you see the pictures on CNN, after you see what is happening and what the entire world sees, after you hear the UN condemnation, are you at peace with the deportation decision?

[Shahal] Look, the point is that a government does not carry out things according to popularity votes. It does things because it is responsible for human life. We had to act so as to accord personal safety to the public, to civilians, to both Jews and Arabs. We know about real intentions for large-scale, indiscriminate terrorist acts, and it was necessary to deal with the subject. We took all possibilities into account. We also took the legal aspect into consideration. We also took into consideration what will happen to the deportees, whether there will or there will not be somebody to absorb them. The absolutely necessary consideration for us was, first and formost, our duty to guarantee personal and public safety. I think that morally it is the duty of any government to care for its residents and citizens. This action was intended to prevent a larger scope of ferment and life-endangering actions. I am referring here to a very large-scale dangerous activity, not only inside the State of Israel, but inside the territories too.

[Ya'iri] Do you believe that the government's move will foil these actions?

[Shahal] Not this move alone; this move in addition to others which are undertaken, of locating the squads which perpetrated the murders in Gaza and in Hebron recently. I am sure we will capture them. The blow dealt to the organizational infrastructure of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad will undoubtedly prevent additional terrorist acts. It will not completely prevent them. It is impossible to promise such a thing, but here I definitely expect another, legitimate thing which was one of the considerations, albeit not the only or decisive one. The time has come for the Palestinian leadership to speak courageously, to arise and unequivocally denounce this policy, this ideology or philosophy of murdering Jews to murder peace. We must know whether there are other Palestinians with whom we can sit and reach an agreement. In the autonomy framework too, which was begun by the previous government and which has been discussed for over a year now, it is necessary to know who the partner is, what is the other side that will guarantee the safety of people...

[Ya'iri, interrupting] And the continuation of the peace process.

[Shahal] Indeed, and therefore...

[Ya'iri, interrupting] At this point, we will bid you farewell. Thank you very much, Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Thank you.

HADASH Withdraws Support Over Deportations

TA2212055392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The expanded secretariat of the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction has instructed the three HADASH Knesset members [MK's] to act to topple the government in the wake of the deportation decision. MK Hashim Mahamid informed the Labor party yesterday that he and his colleagues will no longer be able to be part of the blocking majority that guarantees the government its support. Mahamid made it clear that his faction members will not support the government in the budget votes next week.

Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili has called on the HADASH MK's to reconsider their position. He told them he believes that political decisions will be made in the coming days which will make it clear that the Rabin government is determined to continue the peace process.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that in yesterday's vote of no confidence against the government, the

HADASH MK's abstained, although they had already been instructed to vote against the government.

Opposition No-Confidence Motion Defeated 49 to 33

TA2112182492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The no-confidence motion in the government, which was presented by the Likud, was defeated a short while ago by a majority of 49 coalition votes, to 33 votes from the opposition. Our Knesset affairs correspondent, Hayim Hecht, reports that six Knesset members [MK's] abstained in the vote, including those from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], the Arab Democratic Party, and the NRP [National Religious Party]. The Tzomet faction ultimately voted against the government. The United Torah Jewry MK's were absent from the plenum, as well as MK's from other parties.

Rabin Address on Motion

TA2112160892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1418 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's address to the Knesset in reply to a no-confidence motion submitted by the Likud—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset, I will not question why the Likud chose today of all days to submit a motion of no confidence in the government. Out of my personal recognition and belief that most Israelis today are seeking what unites us, I will not get into an argument with the unfounded polemics used in the no-confidence motion. I will rather focus on the government's policy.

At the very outset, I would like to make clear to the members of the Knesset—and let all Israeli citizens, inhabitants of the Arab countries, Palestinians in the territories, and the world at large also know: The current government is serious, sincere, and genuine in its wish for peace, in its willingness and determination to bring peace to Israel. The current government is also prepared to make compromises and realizes well the necessity and utmost importance of goodneighborly relations and coexistence for the benefit of all of us and that of coming generations. At the same time, the current government will fight all forms of violence and terror with the same determination and commitment, and it will not let either Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, or other terror organizations harm Israeli citizens and will take all legal measures at its disposal to fight the murderous terrorist organizations.

The State of Israel will not be bound by its feet or by its hands. Our hand, which is stretched out to genuine peace, is the same hand that will pull the trigger to hit the assassins as they are perpetrating their deeds.

Members of the Knesset, from the moment the current government was established the main goal it set itself was to bring peace to the Israeli people with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians in the territories. We have done everything we thought possible to promote peace. We proposed new formulas in the negotiations, and we even implemented conciliatory measures in the field which no other government had ever proposed before. We proved sincere and genuine goodwill because peace is important, first and foremost to us and to our children. We need it, we want it, we believe that the negotiations which are proceeding slowly will ultimately reach its last station: peace.

However, as the chances of peace increased, the more it looked like there was a chance to put an end to wars, to terminate the bloody conflict which has going on for generations, to stop the bereavement, tears, and pain—as this chance increased, in spite of the disagreements in Washington, so did the wave of terror grow, mainly radical Islam's terror. Since 1 March 1992, activists of the Islamic fundamentalist organizations Hamas and Islamic Jihad, committed 11 terrorist attacks, but intelligence data attributes 19 other attacks to them. The knife of Hamas has cold-bloodedly murdered the late David Kohen, Shim'on Biran, Helena Rapp, Moshe Bino, 'Amiqam Zalzman, Avino'am Peretz, Shmu'el Geresh, Hagay 'Amit, Shalom Tzabri, Udi Tzamir, Yuval Tutanji, and 'Eran Sobelman. The last victim was Staff Sergeant Major Nisim Toledano, who was kidnapped and butchered with a knife by Hamas men. In these and other attacks, another 19 civilians and soldiers were wounded, some of them critically and seriously. Hamas has spread death.

Members of the Knesset, contrary to the tear-jerking pictures seen today on television, we are not talking here about a group of righteous men. We are talking about one of the most murderous organizations on the face of the earth, whose chief ideology is to kill Jews only because they are Jews, to annihilate the State of Israel, and to prevent at all costs the expected peace which is to come. And, it will come! In spite of them!

A lot has been said and written about the Islamic fundamentalist organizations, their ideologies and members. I exempt myself from the need to dwell on this bunch of lunatics, but in order to illustrate the situation I will apprise you of some gems, so to speak, included in their ideologies.

Here are some quotes: Let us knock on the doors of the mosques with the skulls of the Jews. Let us talk the language of the fire and the gun. The fate of the Jews is to be butchered by us. We have taken upon ourselves to fulfill our duty to society to torture them because torture is the lot of the Jew. No Jew is innocent; all Jews must be killed. Throughout history they have brought bad luck to the world. The land of Palestine is the sacred property of Islam and belongs to the Muslims until the end of time. The liberation of all of Palestine, from the sea to the river, is a supreme strategic goal. Israel will exist until it is exterminated by Islam, the same way it eliminated its predecessors. Jihad is our way and death for Allah is our most sublime aspiration.

Members of the Knesset, in the face of the knives of Hamas and the axes of Islamic Jihad, the Israeli Government is determined to defend all Israeli citizens everywhere, whatever the price might be. Every Jewish and Arab citizen of Israel will get protection. At the same time, however, let me tell you today that even if we cannot protect every Israeli citizen individually our response to every terrorist attack will be severe. We will make the lives of terrorists and their abettors hell. There will be no mercy.

Members of the Knesset, as part of our war to the bitter end against terror, the government decided on 16 December 1992 to take an extraordinary measure to strike at the snake's head. With the government's approval, it was decided to temporarily expel activists in radical Islamic organizations, those who stoke the fire of the riots and terror, from the territories. To the best of my knowledge, the government made this decision knowing what it meant and what its repercussions would be. It was clear to the cabinet ministers that this is an extraordinary and weighty decision. In yesterday's cabinet session, the ministers ratified their position and they stand behind it in its entirety. We did not and are not talking of a permanent deportation. Based on the recommendations of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, orders were signed for the removal of members of terror organizations who endanger human lives or instigate such actions. The deportation is for a short period that will not exceed two years. It was also decided to set up committees of appeals headed by military judges whose duty will be to discuss and rule on the appeals to reverse the temporary removal orders. Contrary to the current legal situation, these committees will have full authority to abrogate the temporary removal orders or to shorten their duration without seeking any further approval for their ruling. The committees will discuss the appeals submitted to them within 60 days of the day the temporary removal order was issued in the absence of the deported men, who are entitled to be represented by a lawyer or a relative. These orders were issued as an ad hoc decree in view of the serious incidents which endangered the public, both Jews and Arabs, and seriously harmed security. To the best of our understanding and judgment, temporary removal for a definite period of time on an individual basis is compatible with international and Israeli law.

Members of the Knesset, 415 activists of radical Islamic terrorist organizations were removed to Lebanon. A media blackout and censorship were imposed on the operation only to guarantee the well-being of the IDF soldiers and the execution of the mission. Contrary to the false reports in the media, the Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists are not staying in a no-man's-land, but in sovereign Lebanese territory and until this morning they were in an area fully controlled by the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Government. Up until this morning conditions in the camp of the deportees in Lebanon were not easy; it is cold there. However, I will confess that I feel no pity toward them. I see the media's crocodile tears and the hypocritical speeches and I think a lot about the orphans of Nissim Toledano, the widow of Shmu'el Biran, and about the bereaved parents of Shmu'el Gerush.

This morning, the Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists were led by a Lebanese officer—and escorted by the media—on a march toward the northern boundary of the security zone. Around the same time, the Lebanese defense minister announced that he would not allow any food or assistance from the Lebanese Red Cross and other voluntary organizations from getting to the deportees. All this to prove to the world and to the Israeli court that these terrorists are defenseless and need mercy. Our mind is made up. We will not let them come back. The Lebanese move was meant to influence the Supreme Court judges sitting in their capacity as the High Court of Justice. If you ask me how I know this, I will tell you: Lebanon's radio today carried a report on behalf of the Lebanese defense minister that their intention is to wedge the deportees between the Lebanese Army's positions and the boundary of the security zone in a bid to assist the lawyers defending them. I did not say that; this was stated on behalf of the Lebanese defense minister on Lebanon's radio.

We are aware of the criticism and have been watching the farce on television. We do not think that the whole world hates us, and we do not mean to reject the criticism of friends. On the contrary, we keep an open mind to all views and we are willing to hear criticism. However, the world that criticizes and protests our actions and gives us advice is the same world which did not utter one word when 300,000 Palestinians were expelled from Kuwait. It is the same world which day in and day out sees thousands killed, butchered, massacred, and raped in Bosnia and does absolutely nothing. For some reason, the world sometimes likes to weep on our shoulder and, thank God, our shoulders are broad and strong. However, when it comes to our security and the security of our children we alone will decide what is good for us.

One of the main goals of the murderers of peace and the assassins of Jews and Palestinians it to deal a severe blow to Israel's security situation, to sow fear and terror among the population, to debilitate and tire us so that Israel is weak when it gets to the negotiating table. There is no chance of that! We are prepared to meet around the negotiating table, as equals, people like us who want peace. But we will get to that table strong, as strong as we have always been. Our struggle against Islamic and other terror is also designed to rouse the dormant world, particularly concerning the threat of Islamic fundamentalism. We call on all nations and peoples to devote their thoughts to the great threat emanating from this radical Islam. This is the real and most serious threat to the well-being of the world in the next few years. The danger of death lies on the footstep of many nations. Just as it was the first one to spot the nuclear threat posed by Iraq,

so does Israel stand today in the first line of fire in the face of the danger of radical Islam.

Members of the Knesset, peace is the big enemy of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and in order to kill the peace they are also trying to hurt us, to massacre schoolchildren in Jerusalem, and to kill those Palestinians in the territories who chose to tread the path of peace.

Members of the Knesset, the Israeli Government's policy has been and will continue to be based on striving for peace and fighting terror to the bitter end.

Despite our pain over the fallen victims of the past few months, we remain committed to making peace, and we have no intention of pulling out of the talks taking place in Washington. We intend to achieve peace with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians in the territories. We continue to believe that the political solution will be the means to bring peace to us and our neighbors. Over the past several months, Israel has submitted numerous new proposals in each of the negotiating tracks, in order to promote a dialogue with the Arab parties. On the Jordanian-Palestinian track, progress was also achieved during the current round of talks. In the negotiations with Jordan, serious work is being carried out by the groups of experts in the various fields of water, energy, the environment, economy, etc. There was certain progress in the negotiations with Jordan, also from the political aspect. As for the Palestinians, an effort was made, primarily by us, to establish a dialogue on various issues, especially on the so-called agenda, or in other words the classification of problems between us and them, the interim accord and its formulation. Certain progress was made, and this offers room for hope regarding future possibilities. I in no way seek to play down the gap in positions which still exists, but as far as we are concerned, it was not a waste of time and the initiatives to promote the negotiations came primarily from our part. In the talks with Syria, we are looking for every way to learn of its readiness to establish real peace, imbued with real content and normalization and all that this implies. Up till now, we have only heard limited definitions in this regard. Nevertheless, we carefully peruse every positive statement about peace made by the Syrian leadership, and we will return to the negotiating table with this intention in mind. To our regret, in Lebanon, Syria's domination is reflected in the positions of the Lebanese negotiators, and therefore, making progress on this negotiating track is difficult.

Knesset members, the peace negotiations are a difficult and complex task, but despite the difficulties and the complexities we will adhere to our commitment to it. This is a lasting commitment. We will continue to search for every way and every path to reach peace with our neighbors, and I am convinced that with perseverance, patience, and the devoting of continuous thought, we shall achieve it. Of course this also requires the extended hand of our neighbors. We shall continue to search for every way to attain peace and security for the State of Israel. I am convinced that the peace negotiations will be resumed; today, Lebanon announced its intention to return to the peace talks. Knesset members, these are not easy times for Israel; however, we are strong enough to stand firm on both fronts—in the battle for peace and the war against terror—and we shall prove victorious on both.

I propose striking the no-confidence motion from the agenda. If I may, I would like to wish the Israeli people a happy Hanukkah, on behalf of the entire Knesset.

IDF Spokesman Announces Lifting of Gaza Closure

TA2112203392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The closure on the northern Gaza Strip, including Dayr al-Balah, the villages around Gaza, and the refugee camps in the center of the Gaza Strip will be lifted at dawn tomorrow. Curfews will remain in effect in other locations in the Gaza Strip, according to the Army's judgment, and schools will not reopen.

The closure on the Bethlehem area also will be lifted at dawn tomorrow. In the Hebron area, the curfew will be lifted, but the closure will continue.

This was announced by the Army spokesman.

New Law Bans Carrying Firearms as of 31 Dec

JN2112160992 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Amman, 21 Dec (PETRA)—In implementation of the powers given to him, Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul has decided to withdraw licenses for the possession of firearms that were granted to persons whose names are included on lists kept at police directorates in the Kingdom. Therefore, these licenses will be considered canceled as of 31 December 1992.

The minister also decided to convert all licenses, which were issued before the above decision and which allow for carrying firearms, into possession licenses only. Carrying any firearm is banned as of 31 December 1992, and is subject to punishment by law.

Al-Majali Comments on Washington Talks

JN2012205992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Head of Jordan's delegation to the Middle East peace talks with Israel 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said the eighth round of talks made no progress. Dr. al-Majali who returned to Amman from Washington tonight said the talks were useful in some of their aspects.

[Begin recording] [al-Majali] Well, I would say the eighth round is very much like the seventh round. I don't think we have done real progress in the sense of progress. But, in the same time, it was very useful because in some of the items on the agenda we have gone into more depth and knowing exactly what is the other side has to offer in these subjects. But, in the same time, this round coincided with the final time for President Bush and he met with the delegations as a symbol of support to the peace process as a whole.

[Unidentified reporter] But, when you did the meeting, the decision, the Israeli Government had decided to deport 400 plus Palestinians. What was his opinion?

[al-Majali] Well, President Bush was furious about this incident as much as we did and he assured us that he will and his administration will use his complete efforts and stand to try to find a solution for the deportation, now it has happened. And we expressed our denouncing of this act by not going the last day for the negotiation, protesting this, which was again clear in the media that the Arabs, all of them, have protested this and we didn't go to the negotiation because this act is inhuman and against all legal and international law. [end recording]

Emergency APU Session on Expulsions Requested

JN1912173392 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, called on the president of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] to hold an emergency session for the union to discuss the expulsion decision taken by the Israeli authorities against more than 400 Palestinians.

Dr. 'Arabiyat warned that such decision represents a dangerous step towards emptying the occupied Arab territories from its citizens. He asserted that in order to face such actions, more Arab coordination and solidarity is needed.

Chief of Staff Confers With French Counterpart

JN1712215392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, received at his office at the General Command this morning French Army Chief of Staff General Jacques Lanxade and his delegation.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reviewed the overall regional state of affairs and recent developments, stating Jordan's efforts to achieve a just peace in this region, as well as in other parts of the world. He also underscored the role that France can play in this regard. He noted the contribution of the Jordanian Armed Forces to peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also touched on the importance of bilateral cooperation and the enhancement of ties in the field of training and joint exercises. He noted the mutual benefit of such actions in terms of exchanging expertise.

For his part, the guest general paid tribute to the good ties existing between the two friendly countries, affirming the importance of cooperation in the field of training and joint exercises.

The meeting was attended by the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, the assistant chief of staff for planning and organization affairs, the French ambassador in Amman, and the French military attache in Amman.

The French army chief of staff and his delegation also listened to a military briefing at the Royal Air Force Command on the duties and tasks of the Air Force.

Palestinian Deportees Remain in Buffer Zone

Israelis Fire on Deportees' March

NC2112125392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] In accordance with Lebanese Army Command orders, Lebanese Army personnel in Marj al-Zuhur have evacuated the Palestinian deportees from the camp they set up and requested them to return to the occupied territories. At 1030 [0830 GMT], the deportees marched toward the Zummaraayya crossing point, which is under the control of the Israeli occupation forces and border strip militiamen. Occupation forces opened artillery and heavy machine-gun fire at the march, causing casualties among the deportees. Deportee Amjad Zamil was one of the casualties and was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Rashayya al-Wadi. The march proceeded to within 150 meters of the Zummaraayya crossing point. Israel sent 20 armored vehicles and 200 personnel toward the crossing point. The border militia sent 10 vehicles and 100 members. Firing at the march is continuing.

A spokesman for the deportees, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, said that the deportees will continue their march toward the occupied territories. He said: We will not go back, except as corpses. Severe tension prevails in the region. An Israeli tank and a vehicle moved toward the deportees.

Deportee Wounded by Israeli Fire

NC2112143092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1402 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The latest reports from the south say that Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd's militia fired tank artillery and 12.7 mm shots at the Palestinian deportees at 1430 [1230 GMT] this afternoon. Sulayman Qawasmi was hit and carried away by journalists. The same information adds that an Israeli bulldozer dug a trench to separate Zummaraayya from the deportees, put barbed wire inside it, and planted the area between Zummaraayya and Marj al-Zuhur with mines.

SLA Erects Road Block

NC2112154092 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] spokesman has announced that the SLA today set up a road block north of Zummaraayya crossing consisting of sand bags, barbed wire, barbed [word indistinct], and mines to prevent people and vehicles from passing.

The spokesman said that those who try to get through this road block will do so at their own risk.

The deportees earlier attempted to approach Zummaraayya crossing and return to the border area. The persistence of the Israeli Army and the SLA, however, stopped them and prevented them from approaching the crossing.

An armored SLA force advanced 400 meters into the buffer zone and shelled a shack about 700 meters away from Zummaraayya to prevent the deportees from using it. Sixteen shells fell in an unknown location.

In light of this situation, the deportees will not be able to approach the crossing gate.

A supply convoy provided by the Norwegian contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon carrying canned goods, fruit, heaters, and water tanks passed through Zummaraayya crossing toward the camp.

Deportees Issue Statement Demanding Repatriation

JN2212105292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Dec 92 p 38

["Text" of statement issued by Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon on 21 December]

[Text] Proceeding from our faith in our inalienable right to return to our land, kinfolk, and country, from which we have been forcibly evicted for no reason other than our testifying that there is no God but God, and that there is no messenger except Muhammad the messenger of God; and out of our faith in our rights as human beings, which are enshrined in all heavenly creeds and international law, we appeal to all states and peoples, represented by world governments and international as well as charity organizations, to firmly oppose this dangerous precedent perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; that is, the deportation of hundreds of elite groups from among the ranks of our people without prior knowledge and without resort to due legal process at military courts. Nevertheless, we knew in advance about the decisions that were in store for us, after we found ourselves in southern Lebanon without food, water, covers, or shelter. The Israeli authorities then transported us to the area controlled by the Lebanese Army, which in turn pushed us back to the area from which we were driven, in implementation of a decision adopted in this regard by the wise Lebanese Government. We highly value this Lebanese position, which reflects an increasingly heroic stand in support of our people and cause. By adopting this decision, the Lebanese Government has put an end, once and for all, to the possibility of deporting Palestinians into its territory; and this is a commendable act.

Once the trucks transporting us reached the point controlled by the Israeli Army, the Israeli Army troops forced us out of the trucks, pushed us back, and showered us with a barrage of bullets. This prompted us to set up camps in the no-man's-land area. This continued until journalists and representatives of Lebanese parties and organizations, led by the Islamic Group, the Progressive Socialist Party, and Hizballah arrived at our site. By doing all this, the Israeli Government has shown itself as one that fails to heed heavenly creeds or international law or norms. This is a dangerous precedent in the course of our people's jihad against the Israeli occupation.

Hence, and from the inhuman situation we have been placed in under the very eyes of the entire world, we appeal to:

A. The Lebanese Government to maintain and keep unchanged its nationalist and courageous stand regarding the closure of Lebanese territory to prevent the fulfillment of the expulsions.

B. The Arab delegations participating in the negotiating process, particularly the Palestinian delegation, to immediately withdraw from the negotiations, and not to resume them under any circumstances, because the expulsion of hundreds of elite groups from among the ranks of this mujahid people provides cogent proof of the Rabin government's intentions toward the alleged peace process.

C. Our kinfolk in the occupied territories to remain patient, firm, and vigilant. We would like to reassure them, telling them that we are in good health and that our morale is high. We entreat God to bolster their patience and to make it possible for us to meet them soon.

D. The United Nations, international organizations, human rights organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Amnesty International to perform their duties with respect to putting pressure on the Israeli authorities to make them revoke their arbitrary decision. Lastly, we would like to appeal to all free people of the world to support the deportees in order to enable them to return to their kinfolk and children so that they may offer them food, drink, and the affection and care which only fathers can provide.

God is great, and God be praised. May God's peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his household, and his companions.

[signed] The deportees, and God willing, returnees

Al-Hariri Receives Message From Butrus-Ghali

NC2112212092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] An official source has announced that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today received a message from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the Palestinian deportees. The source said al-Hariri received the message from Frank de Jong, a United Nations Relief and Works Agency official who arrived from Vienna two days ago to discuss this issue.

According to an informed source, the United Nations has informed Lebanon that it has taken measures to avoid the future expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanese territory and has proposed solutions to the current deportees problem. The source said Lebanon rejected any solution based on the Palestinians remaining in areas under its sovereignty.

'Arafat Message to President al-Hirawi

NC2112162092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] We have just received the following:

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has addressed the following message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The message says: The Israeli Government, as you know, has deported 418 Palestinian citizens from their homeland after indiscriminately seizing them from their homes and work places.

This is the largest mass deportation operation since the two forced exoduses to which our people were subjected in 1948 and 1967. This ugly crime, manifested in an indiscriminate and racial manner, reveals the truth behind the Israelis' intentions toward the Palestinian people's land and rights and toward peace in the Middle East. It also confirms what we repeatedly have warned against and brought to attention; the fact that the Israeli Government, irrespective of who heads it, continues to practice the ugliest forms of inhuman violence against the Palestinian people and works to implement the plan of emptying the occupied Palestinian territories of its Palestinian people.

This was a decision taken by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, the one using the iron-fisted and bone-breaking policies in the occupied territories against our Palestinian people. This measure, as well as the previous Israeli deportation of Palestinian citizens from their homes, contradicts international law and Security Council Resolution 694. This resolution demands that Israel cease expulsion and deportation operations and return all deportees to their homes. Despite this, the Israeli Government has not adhered to this or the remaining Security Council and UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 605, 607, 681, and 726 and the Geneva charters, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The message continues: Deporting these Palestinian citizens from their homes where they were born and brought up, and where their fathers and forefathers also were born, places the international community before a crisis of conscience and morality. Which law gives the Israeli Government the right to deprive defenseless citizens from the warmth of their homes and their families and to expel them to the isolation of homelessness while it brings in thousands of Jewish immigrants to occupy the homes and lands of these Palestinians?

This action which the Rabin government has performed represents a fatal blow to the peace process and the current talks. It ruins all efforts being exerted to render these talks a success, despite the harsh circumstances and conditions we accepted to start and maintain this process. The Israeli Government alone is responsible for this failure, which represents an assassination of peace, because by doing so, it drains this operation of all its importance and turns it into a futile and squandered effort. This comes when it continues to practice the

ugliest forms of daily oppression against our people, whether by attacking, arresting, jailing, or murdering them; using live bullets and internationally-banned poison gases; or by blowing up or sealing their homes, seizing land, property, and sources of water; or by uprooting fruitful trees, building settlements, and desecrating Islamic and Christian shrines with the objective of Judaizing the holy lands. It also violates on a daily and continuous basis the most basic Palestinian human rights.

These Israeli crimes, acts of oppression, and violence by the government and occupation authorities confirm once again the need—or rather the imperativeness—of providing international protection for our Palestinian people. They also confirm the need for implementing the applicable UN resolutions, especially Resolution 681, which calls for placing UN observers in the occupied territories and asks the UN secretary general to send a special envoy to these territories.

We ask the international community to implement th[illegible] resolution, as part of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, so that double standards toward the Palestinian people and their rights are not continued to be applied, especially since the United Nations has approved the use of force to implement its resolutions and to preserve international peace.

Therefore, I address you on behalf of our Palestinian people and these Palestinian citizens and their families to use all your influence to stop this inhuman act, condemn it, work on returning these deportees to their homeland, and release the detainees. We are fully confident that your efforts will realize a victory for the oppressed Palestinian peoples and rescue peace in our region from the deliberate destruction and tampering by the Israeli Government.

I assert to Your Excellency that our people's just struggle will continue with the revolution and intifadah, despite the suffering and pain, until there is a final end to this racist Israeli occupation of our land and holy shrines, so that our people can retrieve and practice their inalienable national rights, foremost of which are their rights to return, self-determination, and establishing their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

I wish you much happiness, good health, and success in realizing the aspirations of your people.

Government Reiterates Stand on Deportees

NC2112182492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in the al-Qantarah area was attacked this afternoon. SLA artillery units responded by shelling the sources of fire.

Israeli forces blocked off the Zummarayya crossing point with earthen barriers to prevent the deportees from returning to Israel.

The Defense Ministry explained this afternoon that it has been agreed that assistance to the deportees will be channeled through the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The ICRC announced that because of the security measures taken in the area, it has been unable to deliver assistance to the deportees.

The Lebanese Government has reiterated its decision not to receive the deportees, maintaining that Israel is directly responsible for taking them back.

Buwayz: Israeli Decision Threat to Peace

NC2112141892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1150 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents on 21 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Basically, we believe the Israeli decision to expel Palestinian citizens is a stab to the peace conference as well as to the talks that were going on in Washington. We believe that this act poses a major threat to regional peace. This reckless decision constitutes another Israeli act of defiance of the international community, which, when drafting the Security Council resolution two days ago, should have coupled the resolution with sanctions. It is impermissible to continue handling world issues by different standards and criteria. We do not believe that the world community's handling of this issue is similar to its handling of the Gulf war or any other issue under debate. It is as if there are people above the law in this world.

Regarding the question of shelling southern Lebanon, naturally the intentions are clear. The attempt to disrupt the security situation aims to force Lebanon into accommodating the deportees. We in Lebanon are committed to a clear-cut and final position made through understanding with the Palestinian leaders. This position absolutely and ultimately rejects the entry of deportees, because if we did let them in, we would open a new door for Israel's procrastination in dealing with the Arab cause. On this occasion, we are waiting and we believe that the Israeli Supreme Court's decision will be the test that could prove the claims of democracy that Israel talks about occasionally.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, it seems that Israel will not comply with the Security Council's unanimous resolution to return the deportees. Let us suppose that the Supreme Court refused to bring them back to Israel. What would be the solution and how could such a serious matter be handled?

[Buwayz] The Israeli Government's decision is very serious. The Security Council must impose the return of the deportees. If the claims about democracy in Israel are real, the Supreme Court must rescind its verdict.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, there are fears that the [word indistinct] of settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon could begin with the expulsion of these Palestinians. What is your comment?

[Bowayz] I have said before and I repeat again that the Lebanese Government's position on this issue is clear-cut, firm, and final. We will not accept, under any circumstances, the principle of expelling any Palestinian citizen, because we believe that this natural land is in Palestine. The occupier, under the Geneva Convention, must cope with internal opposition, particularly if this occupier claims to be democratic.

Government To Adhere to Decision on Deportees

NC2112130792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1225 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah following a meeting under the prime minister's chairmanship in Beirut on 21 December—recorded]

[Text] The Lebanese Government is determined to maintain its decision of absolutely refusing to receive the Palestinian brothers who had been deported due to an Israeli decision which the government believes is tantamount to a new attempt to infringe on Lebanese sovereignty.

The Lebanese Government believes that the practical decision to return the deportees to their villages and homes is a direct Israeli responsibility.

The government deems it important to reiterate to world public opinion that the land on which the deportees are located is under Israeli occupation and that the Lebanese Government is in no way responsible for the deported brothers. The place where they are at present is outside the geographical limits of the Lebanese state's sovereignty.

Fadlallah Condemns Expulsion of Palestinians

LD1812174792 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 18, IRNA—A senior Lebanese alim al-'Allamah Seyyed Hoseyn Fadlallah today said that the usurper regime of Israel by deporting the Palestinian Muslims from their homeland intends to turn the whole Palestine into a Jewish state.

Delivering his Friday prayer sermons here today Fadlallah said the Zionist regime had expelled over four million Palestinians from their mother lands replacing them with Zionists.

He criticized the West for negotiating with Israel and called on them to stop the talks in retaliation for the illegal deportations.

According to the senior cleric deportation of the Palestinians could mark the beginning of a new era of their expulsion.

Referring to the growing attacks on the Islamic cause throughout the world, Fadlallah urged Muslim nations to put aside their differences and confront this arrogant policy.

'Awn Supporters Detained; Cabinet Hears Report

NC1712084892 Shamayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The cabinet yesterday listened to the prime minister's report on his visit to Paris and his contacts there. It also listened to several ministers' reports on their participation in conferences abroad and to reports by the defense and justice ministers concerning the referral of some citizens to the judicial authorities. The cabinet asserted that the tasks that the Army undertakes to defend national security are in line with cabinet resolutions. It stressed that all state agencies adhere to the proper legal procedures and that it has been informed that the Army implemented all the necessary legal procedures in line with the cabinet's instructions. It announced that the 11 individuals who have been referred to the courts were detained in accordance with proper legal procedures. [passage omitted]

[A brief report on the detentions from Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0630 GMT on 17 December adds the following: "The cabinet listened to Defense Minister Dallul's report concerning some of General 'Awn's supporters who have been detained."]

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0545 GMT on 17 December lists 10 detainees in a brief report that does not mention support for Gen. 'Awn: "Military prosecutor Rashid Mazhir asked for 10-year prison terms, with hard labor, for the following defendants: Major Fayyad al-Kusa, Captain Michel Shidiaih, Capt. Antoine Abu-Samrah, Capt. Andre Rahhal, Lieutenant Colonel Fayiz Karam, Lt. Col. Butrus Dahdah, Private Umaymah Tarraf, Pvt. Ziyad Abu-Salih, and Pvt. Pierre Dakkash."]

Officer Said to Flee to Israel

NC2012155692 Shamayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Mahsin Dallul said that no Lebanese detainees have been beaten or insulted as reported by some quarters and that a committee sent by Patriarch Sfayr met with the detainees in the hospital and they denied they were beaten or insulted. He said: We must have pity on this country and compete politically and not use the people as a tool in our political fights. The security of the country and homeland is of primary importance.

In an interview with AL-ANWAR published today, Dallul revealed that [Lebanese Army] officer Fa'iz Karam, the leader of the gang that was arrested, escaped to Israel after the gang members were arrested. He stressed that this is a very grave matter and means that

the whole gang had links and collaborated with Israel. He asked: Do the people want a return of Israeli control of this country?

Dallal denied that the government is liquidating the supporters of [former Prime Minister] Michel 'Aoun and stressed the desire to uphold the homeland's dignity and freedom. He added that the freedom and liberty in this country does not exist anywhere else in the world. He said: We have to overcome all obstacles so we can rebuild the homeland and we are now ready to do so to open a new page with the all the people.

Minister Dallal also said that the compulsory military service draft law has not been shelved but that we are waiting for the allocations. He stressed his desire to apply this law.

Army Arrests 551 People in Areas of Deployment

NC1812142592 Sharqiyah Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] A security source has disclosed that 551 people were taken into custody on 17 December, the security day [al-yawm al- amni] implemented by Lebanese Army units in all areas in which the Army is deployed. Those arrested were caught doing unlawful things, such as transporting unlicensed weapons and equipment, driving vehicles without proper documentation, residing in the country without lawful permits, and other offenses. The source said all the detainees were taken to military police stations to be interrogated before being referred to the authorities. The source announced that 49 were arrested in the north, 52 in Kasrawan and al-Matn, 134 in al-Shuf and 'Aley, 231 in the south, 35 in Beirut.

Information Minister on Development, Extremism

NC2012183092 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 21 Dec 92

[Provided by AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY 20 December]

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salmun has stated that all Arab states, without exception, are now facing the problems of development and extremism, just as they once faced the problem of Israeli occupation.

The Syrian minister added that a consolidation of efforts vis-a-vis these two problems can prompt us to work out a united media vision that faces up to domestic challenges, addresses the outside world, and counters the Zionist activity that still controls the arena and presents a false image of Arabs.

Dr. Salmun added: The state in which we are now living is the best example of how we live and how schemes are being imposed on us as a result of division and estrangement. Saddam's actions in Kuwait and Yemen [as published] played a considerable role in bringing about that division and estrangement and enhancing the Israeli role in the region.

Commenting on certain Lebanese elements that question Lebanon's ability to implement the al-Ta'if agreement, the Syrian minister said: Those who call themselves the Lebanese opposition are the minority who monopolized certain authorities granted to them when Lebanon was under French and Turkish rule. This minority used to rule the majority. The al-Ta'if agreement abolishes sectarianism in Lebanon. It follows that this category will be deprived of its unlawful privileges. That is why they assumed an opposition stand and are depending on Israel's presence on the one hand and the American and French support on the other.

Touching on his stand on the Middle East peace negotiations, Dr. Muhammad Salmun pointed out that the Israeli side is still stalling for time, misleading, and putting forward unacceptable proposals concerning the land-for-peace formula to show that it is the Arab side that is disinclined to establish peace. Arab media should sensitize the world about what is really happening, explain that the Israeli stand is intransigent, and show that the Israelis are always trying to evade discussion on the essential issues.

Radio on Deportations, UN Condemnation of Israel

JN1912191692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The UN Security Council strongly and unanimously condemned Israel's terrorist act of deporting hundreds of Palestinians, and called on Rabin's Government to return them immediately to their homes.

The unambiguous condemnation by the UN Security Council reflects the outrage and bitterness felt by world nations toward Israel's continued violations of international principles and charters and human rights, as well as its avoidance of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Hundreds of Palestinians were arrested from their homes, without being guilty of anything, were led blindfolded, handcuffed, and with their feet shackled, and were thrown into the southern Lebanese buffer zone in the middle of snow and cold weather, in a barren open area.

This frightening picture in fact reflects the Israeli rulers' grudges and absence of human feelings. It also reveals to the world the destiny of the entire Palestinian people envisaged by these Israeli rulers. They have turned half of the Palestinian people into refugees living in tents since 1948. They intend to expel the rest if possible.

It was natural for Lebanon to foil the Israeli scheme by refusing to receive the Palestinian deportees. The deportation measure not only targets the Palestinian people. Indeed, it targets Lebanese sovereignty as well. It is an example of arrogance and disrespect for international law.

The Tel Aviv rulers act as if the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem are the property of their fathers and forefathers; as if these territories do not belong to their owners and citizens. They also act as if Lebanon is a no-man's-land and a breeding ground for their schemes. They uprooted hundreds of Arabs from their homes and deported them to Lebanon.

The question that poses itself is: Can the Israeli rulers, who, driven by deep-seated hatred, cold bloodedly executed this criminal act despite severe global condemnation, be seekers of peace?

Peace can be attained through deeds and not words. The Israeli rulers' deeds blatantly contradict their peace claims, and prove that they want to occupy and devour the Arab territories and pave the way for continued expansion in the Arab territories.

The fact is that the rulers of Israel have always contradicted claims by their negotiating delegation in Washington. The deportation order was issued at a time when both the Palestinian and Israeli sides were taking part in the peace talks. No doubt that Rabin's statements on his determination to give momentum to the peace process were aimed at securing U.S. and German loan guarantees and free weapons. Where is Rabin today, in terms of the peace process? Did the Washington talks move forward? Not at all. Rabin surpassed Shamir in dealing treacherous stabs to the peace efforts, as evidenced by his flagrant attack on the rights of the Palestinians and the sovereignty of the Lebanese people.

The UN Security Council's follow up on the deportation process is a very important issue. It is not enough at all for the UN Security Council to just record its condemnation of Israel. There is no alternative to employing effective pressure to return the deportees to their homes and their kinfolk, and to put things back on track.

The deportation act is a blatant attack on UN principles and charters, as well as a great challenge to the international will. Indeed, it is a test of international credibility.

Israel's success in implementing the deportations will prompt its rulers to implement other operations that are larger in scale and even more serious. Such developments threaten a total collapse of peace efforts in the region and a crumbling of international credibility.

Scores of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories are killed daily with Israeli bullets and scores of Lebanese are killed by Israeli raids. How is it possible for Israel to kill, to destroy, and to move heaven and earth when only one of its soldiers was killed?

Israel does not want peace and is seeking excuses to destroy the peace process. It does not hesitate to perpetrate the ugliest and most barbaric attacks under imaginary pretexts.

It is time for the international community to impose its laws and charters on the rulers of Israel and to put an end to the dangerous bickering with Middle Eastern and world resources.

The peace process is at a crossroads. Either international law will be consecrated, committing Israel to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, or the Israeli law of the jungle will be allowed to prevail in the region, bringing about even more tragedies.

Iraqi Groups Meet, Discuss Toppling Iraqi Regime

JN2112180692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Damascus, 21 Dec (SANA)—An intellectual and political dialogue between representatives of both Islamic and pan-Arab currents from Iraq was held in Damascus between 17 and 18 December 1992.

The symposium was attended by parties, blocs, and figures from both sides. They discussed common denominators that both gather these currents and unite their national efforts. They also exchanged views on ideas and concepts contained in working papers submitted by both sides. Both sides largely agreed on important issues dealing with Iraqi national action and the bases and objectives of dialogue between both currents.

Both sides decided to form a standing joint committee called "the coordination and follow up committee" [lajnat al-tansiq wa al-mutaba'ah] that is responsible for continuing and following up on the outcome of the symposium in terms of implementing the denominators resulting from the dialogue and mobilizing their energies that contribute to political efforts and activities aimed at toppling the dictatorial regime that weighs heavily on our beloved Iraq and to establish an alternative on which the will of our people converges.

Afghanistan

Fighting Flares as Settlement Council Meets

LD2112115092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Clashes between forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Jami'at-e Eslami have flared up since this morning in eastern and southeastern Kabul. According to a report from the Voice and Vision's office in Kabul, forces of the Hezb-e Eslami are advancing into the city in parts of the regions of Chaman-e Hozuri, Jalib-e Mawand, and Bala Hesar. They have met with resistance, however, from the forces of the Jami'at-e Eslami Shura-e Nezar [supervisory council].

The report states that the people of Kabul began leaving the areas in which fighting is taking place after the start of the sudden clashes. Hekmatyar, the head of the Hezb-e Eslami, is opposed to the meeting of the Revolution and Settlement Council, and he does not consider the method of selecting the representatives to the council as being in keeping with the wishes of the people of Afghanistan.

According to the report, the second session of the Revolution and Settlement Council was held 21 December without prior announcement at the Afghan Interior Ministry in Kabul. The session was held in circumstances in which the sound of sporadic gunfire from the fighting between the Hezb-e Eslami and the Jami'at-e Eslami could be heard in the distance. It is expected that the Kabul peace delegation will begin efforts to bring an end to the clashes.

Clashes Subside

LD2112173992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Clashes between the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Jami'at-e Eslami subsided this afternoon.

Leadership Council Member Discusses Issues

NC2112125492 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Dec 92 p 14

[Report on "exclusive interview" with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Qurban 'Ali 'Erfani, member of the Central Committee of the Leadership Council of Afghanistan, by unidentified JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Erfani began with an explanation on how the Revolution and Settlement Council was established and its obligations of electing the president of the interim government. He said: According to the articles compiled by the Central Committee, a four-member panel will be sent to each province to work with provincial committees, which are currently acting as governors general. Local scholars, elders, and prominent personalities will elect representatives to the Council and will send them to Kabul for membership in the Revolution and Settlement Council.

He added: The elected representatives should have certain qualities and should have participated in the 14-year jihad of the people of Afghanistan. They should also be endowed with an ethical character and a good reputation. In addition, they should not have held important positions under the former regime.

A journalist asked if it was justified for the Leadership Council to have a 15-percent say in electing members of the Revolution and Settlement Council while the interim president would only have a 5-percent say. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Erfani said: This issue is based on a series of considerations approved by the Leadership Council and sent to the Central Committee. The latter did not have any objection and the Hezb-e Wahdat Party, which has representatives in the Central Committee, was not opposed to the idea either.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Erfani described the formation of units and administrative departments under the former Afghanistan regime as unjust, saying: The number of elected representatives used to be equal in every governorate, despite the conspicuous difference in the population of each province. For example, the number of representatives is now in proportion to a governorate which has 10,000 people. Only after the victory of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan were we successful in changing the criteria for election and to base it on the number of people in a constituency, rather than on the number in the governorate. Thus, the Leadership Council stipulated that two representatives should be elected for every 30,000 people and that an extra representative should be added for every 10,000 persons in addition to that number.

He added: Approximately 1,500 representatives will be appointed by the people, the interim president, and the Leadership Council. He stressed the need to establish an Islamic Council to control the government's performance, saying: It has been decided that 20 percent of the total representatives elected from the provinces will form an "Islamic Council" to keep an eye on the actions of the president. Those selected by him will have to obtain a vote of confidence from this Council.

In the course of his 18 months in office, he continued, the head of the interim government—in addition to administering government affairs—will oversee preparations to hold nationwide presidential elections.

A journalist asked what was behind the recent killings in the country. The Central Committee member said: Colonialist powers seek to stir trouble on the pretext of religion, nationalism, and language so they can attain their colonialist objectives. The recent killings are an example of this. Similarly, foreign hands, as well as our enemies seek to magnify economic problems and create

a chasm between the government and the people. We hope that our people will realize this and will disappoint our enemies.

He said Islamic Iran is the pioneer of Islamic countries and is a cradle of Islam, adding: In view of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan and the emergence of Islamic uprisings in most of the world, the colonialist powers are seeking to target their nucleus to undermine these Islamic movements. This is why we are witnessing extensive and malicious propaganda by the powers of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

'Erfani discussed Babrak Karmal's suggestion to reorganize the country's communists, saying: Perhaps some people think in these terms even now, but in view of the current circumstances in Afghanistan and the ideological blow that communism has received in the world, it is certain that there is no possibility for the reappearance of the communists in the country.

Commenting on the declaration by Hekmatyar's faction on readiness to negotiate with the government and the political parties of Afghanistan and the useful role of negotiations in resolving the country's problems, Hojjat al-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Erfani said: All Islamic parties in Afghanistan are seeking to solve the country's internal problems amicably. Negotiations are the only means of resolving differences and problems in Afghanistan.

He added that the request by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami party is positive. In principle, the most logical course would be for parties to resolve their differences through negotiations, without intervention. However, the conditions and how the negotiations are to be conducted are important for us.

India

No-Confidence Motion Against Government Defeated

BK2112113092 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1330 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government was defeated in the Lok Sabha this evening. A total of 106 votes were cast in favor of the Bharatiya Janata Party-sponsored motion, while 334 members voted against it.

Rao Addressed Parliament

BK2112111092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, told the Lok Sabha today that the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque] in Ayodhya appears pre-planned. Replying to a marathon debate on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-sponsored no-confidence motion against the government, he said the incident was so planned that it could not be accidental. He said that he believed the Kalyan Singh government, which kept filing affidavit after affidavit, giving solemn assurances in such a manner that till the last minute it made everyone believe that the structure would be protected. Mr. Rao said investigation has been ordered into the incident, which will bring out the details. Referring to the Supreme Court's observation on the 6th of December indicting the state government, Mr. Rao said the Constitution has shattered when a solemn promise of the state government could not be believed. He said that he would like the constitutional experts to go into the question and suggest what the Center should do in a situation like this. The prime minister was still speaking when the reports last came in.

Earlier, during the discussion, in a hard-hitting speech, Mr. V.P. Singh, Janata Dal, called for national atonement as the Ayodhya incident is a national tragedy. He said what fell at Ayodhya was the dome of the judiciary as its orders were not carried out. He alleged that there was a collusion between the BJP and the Center and demanded that the prime minister should own up the moral responsibility and resign. [passage omitted]

Mr. Ram Naik, BJP, decried the attempt to identify those killed or the religious places damaged, as it will further divide the people. Mr. Mukul Wasni, Congress-I, justified the action against the BJP leaders and banning of certain organizations. Mr. Suryanarayan Yadav, JD-A [Janata Dal-Ajit Singh group], asked the BJP members why they are opposing the rebuilding of the masjid in Ayodhya if they are really sorry for the 6th December incident. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, demanded setting up of an anticommunal riot force with representation from all communities.

Opposing the no-confidence motion, the welfare minister, Mr. Sitaram Kesari, said the challenge now is to isolate communal forces and to ensure that the rule of the law and Constitution prevail. The deputy minister for commerce, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said all secular forces should stand together and fight against fundamentalists.

Mr. Dhanin Jayakumar, BJP, held the Center responsible for the violence in the wake of the demolition of the structure in Ayodhya. Syed Shahabuddin, Janata Dal, said final verdict of the Supreme Court on the Ayodhya dispute should be implemented and be binding on all concerned parties. The railway minister, Mr. Jaffar Sharif, said Pakistan has done a great harm to the minority community in India by not preventing demolition of temples in that country.

Further on Rao's Speech

BK2112163492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The no-confidence motion by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] against the Narasimha Rao government has been rejected this evening by the Lok Sabha with an

overwhelming majority of 334 members voting against and 106 in favor. There were 47 abstentions. Altogether 487 members voted.

Earlier, replying at the end of the three-day debate, the prime minister said the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque] in Ayodhya appears pre-planned. It could not be accidental. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said he had believed the Kalyan Singh government which gave solemn assurances through affidavits that the structure would be protected. Mr. Rao said the inquiry ordered into the incident will bring out the truth. Referring to the Supreme Court's observation on the 6th of December indicting the state government, the prime minister said the Constitution lies shattered when the solemn promise by a state government was not kept by it. Mr. Rao said he would like the constitutional experts to go into lacunae in Article 356 and suggest what the Center in a federal government should do in a situation like this. Mr. Rao said the debate itself has given the occasion for introspection and also for deciding measures for the future.

Describing the tragedy at Ayodhya as an act of betrayal and vandalism, Mr. Rao appealed that let not even the slightest remnant of its memory be in the minds of the people. The prime minister asked the BJP whether it moved the no-confidence motion against the government because it had reposed confidence in a state government ruled by the party that it would not be a party to the demolition of the disputed structure. The prime minister said the religious issues are brought into politics in election after election by certain parties. He called for a national debate on the position of such parties in a secular democracy. He said the time has come to seriously look into political parties bringing religion into politics.

Referring to rehabilitation of riot victims, Mr. Rao said the Center is examining the possibility of giving a uniform rate of compensation throughout the country as a one-time exception. He also announced the setting up of a fund for repair and reconstruction of all religious places damaged in the recent violence. He said the Center has also recommended to the state governments to provide jobs to the widows of the deceased, where the victim was the only earning member of the family.

Narrating the developments at Ayodhya on 6th December, Mr. Rao said the central security forces were sent to the state for its assistance, but at no time Kalyan Singh government gave it in writing that they refused to use the Central forces, although the Faizabad magistrate on that day did not allow the forces to proceed to the site. He said the Babri masjid on that day was like a hostage and the Center had no other option except believing the state government's assurance to ensure its protection. He said it was an extraordinary situation like a mother poisoning her child. He said for the first time secular forces have come together and it will be ensured that secular credentials of the country are established. The prime minister reaffirmed that using religion for political gains will not be allowed. While the prime minister was giving his reply, a lot of interruptions were made by members like Chandra Shekhar, Mr. V.P. Singh, and Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India].

Replying to the debate, the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, severely criticized the government for the dismissal of the BJP-ruled state governments and for enforcing the ban on some organizations without the approval of the tribunal. He alleged that the secularism pleaded by the ruling party is based on political gains. Mr. Vajpayee demanded that excavations be undertaken at the site in Ayodhya to find out whether a temple existed before the mosque. He denied that any camp was held last year for RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] workers for the demolition of the structure at Ayodhya. Expressing his anguish, Mr. Vajpayee said what was demolished at Ayodhya along with the masjid was a temple where religious ceremony was regularly performed. He asked the Center to spell out its plans of construction at Ayodhya. He appealed to all that effort should be made to find a permanent solution to the Ayodhya dispute. He said the BJP is prepared for a midterm poll if the ruling party desires to take the issue to the people.

Parties React to Vote

BK2212102092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Major political parties have said the defeat of the no- confidence motion in the Lok Sabha shows the isolation of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the polarization of secular forces. They were reacting to the rejection of the BJP-sponsored no confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government in the Lok Sabha yesterday.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, told newsmen soon after the voting that the defeat of the motion has exposed the BJP and condemns the actions of the BJP, VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], and Bajrang Dal at Ayodhya. He said it has also brought about polarization of secular forces, both inside and outside Parliament.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit, said the government should take a firm stand to fight the challenge of divisive forces in view of the isolation of the BJP in national politics.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] National Council secretary, Mr. M. Farooqi, said no other conclusion should be drawn from the defeat of the motion as it has not given certificate to the Narasimha Rao government.

The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Harkishore Singh, said the motion's rejection reflects the isolation of the BJP from the mainstream of national politics. He said it was bound to be defeated because of the communal stand taken by the BJP.

Article Views Fate of BJP After Ayodhya Events

BK2112154392 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 92 p 10

[By Chandan Mitra]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Dec. 8—Mr L.K. Advani's arrest is an integral part of the Narasimha Rao Government's proposed Algeria-style crackdown on fundamentalist forces. But in the long run, today's move may help accelerate the BJP's recovery from its current shellshocked state. Incarceration was the best thing that could happen to the moderate segment of the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party's] divided leadership today. It will help them put other, more serious, issues aside as the campaign for their release is mounted.

This is not to suggest that the Government had too many options. But it is a measure of the utter bankruptcy of political thinking in the Government that its reaction to Sunday's events has become progressively ham-handed. The knee-jerk reaction of announcing that the mosque will be rebuilt has come as a Godsend to the BJP at a time when an influential section of urban middle class opinion was filled with remorse over Sunday's occurrences and was, consequently, distancing itself from that party.

Even the moderate section of the BJP will have to take a tough stance against this, although it is a fact that this section is guilty of having implicitly colluded with the fanatics on December 6. They should have been aware that control was certain to break down in an assembly of over five lakh people. After all, despite his palpable disgust, whatever happened at Ayodhya that day took place in front of Mr Advani's eyes and he was powerless to stop it.

"Our senior leaders thought that the stern, neighbourhood RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, National Volunteers Organization] shakha pramukh [wing leaders] would blow his whistle and the kar sevaks [volunteers for temple construction] would fall in line like little lambs, which is what happens at shakhas every morning. They were hopelessly naive," said a young BJP activist in the capital, reflecting upon the tragic event. Undoubtedly, Mr Advani's and Mr Kalyan Singh's confidence in being able to control the crowd bordered on arrogance. They had done it twice before and couldn't believe that RSS orders would be flouted so brazenly.

The BJP's moderate leadership is now engaged in an unstated rear-guard battle to wrest control back from the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad]/Bajrang Dal fanatics—the Sangh Parivar's [family's] lunatic fringe. But for the present, this mass organisation, India's second largest political party, faces the threat of becoming another Shiv Sena [Hindu Fundamentalist political party]. If that happens, the BJP will have walked out altogether of the parameters of respectable politics and would be confining itself into a dark alley where only criminals don't fear to tread.

Unfortunately, however, the moderates are still battling the fanatics only at the level of thought and not on tactics on the ground. The question now is whether the moderates will have the unity of purpose and resilience to take on the fanatics with the aim of marginalising them within and outside the organisation.

It needs to be appreciated that the fanatic wing is currently riding high, even if terms of the saffron supporters' approval rating, leave alone within the Sangh organisation. A very substantial section of Hindu opinion—especially in the small towns—is least apologetic about what happened on Sunday. There was jubilation, not just in UP [Uttar Pradesh] towns on Sunday evening, but even in the cities, many celebrated the Ayodhya tragedy. As a result, the fanatics seem to believe that regardless of the criticism by the other parties and the media, the majority is with them.

If the BJP is hijacked by these elements, it spells doom for the party. It will cease to be the BJP which leaders like Mr Advani, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr Kalyan Singh and Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, among others, have tried to create. It will lose all claim to representing the right-of-centre ground of Indian politics. A BJP led by the likes of Mr Ashok Singhal, Sadhvi Ritambhara or Mr Bal Thackeray can only represent the darkest forces of medievalism.

The reality is that Sunday's events have not only divided the nation, they have also divided the fathers of the Ram Mandir [Rama Temple] Movement. There are two BJPs now. And although the fanatics seem to hold the upper hand today, the moderates are likely to fight back. The arrest of the moderate leaders, especially Mr Advani, along with the fanatics has, therefore, been a politically unwise step as far as the Congress is concerned. It will help the BJP to claim injured innocence and partly neutralise its culpability.

It is worth noting, that paradoxically, after Sunday's devastating events, the BJP segment within the Sangh hierarchy has gained in strength at the level of ideas. As it is, there was not much love lost between a sizeable section of the BJP leadership and the VHP-Bajrang Dal combine; both needed each other but were increasingly uncomfortable about the coexistence. Now an increasingly disturbed BJP leadership, worried about becoming an outlaw party, is beginning to openly denounce the hotheads.

Nevertheless, the moderate faction's struggle is uphill. It has been proved beyond doubt that this section is incapable of controlling its fanatical cadre. Worse, it would appear that sections of the VHP and the RSS which apparently connived at Sunday's events, kept the BJP moderates in the dark. This has left men like Mr Advani, Mr Vajpayee and Mr Kalyan Singh with no leg to stand on and no face to show. For them to regain credibility and convince people that they are back in control will be immensely difficult.

Significantly, the RSS supremo, Mr Balasaheb Deoras, has broken his silence and condemned Sunday's desecration. This suggests that the Sangh has realised that the tiger it had let loose is about to devour its patrons. Consequently, the larger questions raised during the last two years—principally, the issue of redefining Indian nationalism—is being relegated to the backburner.

Mr Advani's personal sense of outrage at Sunday's events and Mr Vajpayee's anger will not be enough to halt the lumpenisation of the BJP. A bit of the middle ground can be retrieved by them only if the BJP's dissociation from the VHP-Bajrang Dal combine is seen as irrevocable.

By arresting him, the Government has done seminal service to Mr Advani. But it remains to be seen if he can enforce his line on the party and also convince the RSS that fanaticism must be abandoned. In other words the tail must not be allowed to wag the dog any more.

The next fortnight is, therefore, crucial to the BJP's survival as a mainstream party. From an organisation which many believed till Sunday was a government-in-waiting, the BJP has slid back immeasurably. But if the moderates triumph—and that is not yet certain—the painstaking process of returning to the mainstream may yet be initiated.

President's Rule in Four States Approved

BK2212085692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The Rajya Sabha has approved the proclamation of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh. The house yesterday adopted statutory resolutions in this regard by a voice vote when the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members walked out. The House negated a motion by Dr. G.K. Jain, BJP, and three other party members recommending revocation of president's rule in these states.

Israeli Foreign Minister's 4 Jan Visit Deferred

BK2112144692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the visit of the Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, to India has been deferred by mutual consent for some time. Mr. Peres was scheduled to come to New Delhi on the 4th of next month on a five-day visit. The spokesman said new dates will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Move Said Not Linked to Deportation

TA2112142292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The Indian Government has canceled Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit, claiming that the domestic situation in India prevents the visit from being held in January as scheduled.

In a talk between Israeli Ambassador Efrayim Dowek and the Indian Foreign Ministry director general, Dowek was told that due to the tensions between Hindus and Muslims, the Indian leaders—and particularly the prime minister—will be unable to accord Peres' visit the attention befitting "an event of such importance" to India's foreign policy.

In Jerusalem, the visit cancellation is not linked with the possibility of an attempt to avoid riling India's Muslim population, and it is noted that India has canceled several other visits slated for the coming weeks, with the exception of the upcoming visit by British Prime Minister John Major. Also, no link is seen between the cancellation and Israel's decision to expel Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, as Dowek had been summoned to the Indian Foreign Ministry before the Israeli decision was made public.

The Indians stated that they plan to reschedule Peres' visit, although it will not be feasible before March or April 1993.

Foreign Investment Proposals Approved

BK1912081892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The government approved yesterday foreign investment proposals worth over 140 crore rupees. The sanction was given by the high-power committee headed by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi. The proposals for investment are in electronics, textiles, chemicals, and deep sea fishing.

Trade Deficit Now Over $2.7 Billion

BK1812161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The country's trade deficit is still increasing even as its exports have gone up by 6 percent. Official data for the period April-October released in New Delhi shows the deficit is now over $2,720 million. This is almost double the trade deficit recorded around this time last year.

Hindi Paper on Patent Law Differences With U.S.

BK2112140992 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 11 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Patent Trouble"]

[Text] Indo-U.S. differences on intellectual property rights continue. The admission of this fact by members of the Joint Business Council of the two countries shows that Indian industrialists are now putting their case more strongly than a few months ago when, harping on the

some of economic reforms, Indian big business house unions had expressed support for the U.S. stand. It appeared then that the Indian Government, too, would change its patent laws. Speculation was rife about the Indian show of flexibility at GATT's Uruguay round of talks, though the fact was that the GATT talks were then deadlocked due to the U.S.-European Commmunity debate on the issue of farm subsidies. Now that an agreement has been reached between the two economic superpowers on the subsidy issue, the deadlock in the Uruguay round of talks has largely been overcome and new life has been infused in the current round of talks. It is but natural that the issue of intellectual property rights will again be raised at the talks. It will be interesting to see what the Indian stand will be on this important issue.

India and The United States basically disagree on patent laws. According to the Indian Patent Law of 1970, processes but not products are patented in India. According to U.S. law, if an entrepreneur develops a new product, he gets a patent for that product; while in India only the process of production can be patented and any other entrepreneur can develop the same product through a different process. The United States objects to this. It also objects to the duration of patents. In most of the cases in India, the patent duration is for seven years, while the U.S. law allows patents up to 15 to 20 years. The United States complains that the Indian patent law hurts U.S. interests, without realizing that Indian laws must be made by Indians themselves. Our patent laws have been formulated after years of thinking and hard work, but any law is dependent on circumstances. With a change in circumstances, laws can be changed. That is why it cannot be said that once a law has been made, it cannot be changed, but any change should not mean the sacrifice of the fundamental principles on which the law is based. If the U.S. proposals are agreed to and the corresponding patent laws are changed, the prices of pharmaceutical drugs will skyrocket. Not to mention the poor, even the low middle class and middle middle class will be deprived of medicines, thus falling prey to disease and death. Our government cannot be cruel to an extent that it signs an international agreement that will cause an immense price increase for medicines. Even then, the patent issue is not limited to pharmaceutical products; farm and dairy products also fall within its gambit.

The pressure to change patent laws also fell on China, and it reached an agreement as well. China's submission to pressure is also affecting India. But it should not be forgotten that China's own traditional medicine system is very developed. The current debate on patent laws has forced us to wonder why we neglected our system of traditional medicine to such an extent that now we are afraid of facing an international agreement. It will be good for us that instead of accusing the United States of using pressure tactics, we should become active in the fields of research and medicine. Only then will we be able to overcome the external pressures.

Government Tribunal Upholds Ban on LTTE

BK2012131492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] An Indian Government tribunal has upheld the ban on the Sri Lankan Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], in the country. A gazette notification dated 20 November but released to the media today stated that the tribunal found that the Government of India had showed sufficient cause for declaring the LTTE as unlawful. The LTTE had been declared unlawful and banned on 14 May this year on the grounds that its objective of a homeland for all Tamils disrupts the sovereignity and territorial integrity of India, that it created the Tamil Nationals Retrieval Troops and aids its members to undertake unlawful activities in India, and that it encourages and aids the United Liberation Front of Assam, a banned organization.

EC Planning New Cooperation Agreement

BK2012114192 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Dec 92 p 13

[By Chitra Subramaniam in Geneva]

[Text] The European Community (EC) has drawn-up plans for a new cooperation agreement with India which officials say should help "revitalise" the EC's political and economic links with New Delhi.

The agreement—updating Brussels trade and aid relations with India—looks set to become a model for other Asian nations seeking closer ties with the world's strongest single market.

"There are clear advantages for the community and India to strengthen the existing relations—the cooperation agreement will be mutually beneficial" Ramoan De Miguel, chef de cabinet in the cabinet of Commissioner Abel Matutres told the *Indian Express* recently in Brussels. "Apart from trade cooperation, there will also be a political agreement with New Delhi," he added.

The agreement is expected to have four basic elements—trade and commercial cooperation, economic cooperation, development cooperation and other areas such as drugs and regional cooperation.

In a series of interviews to the *Indian Express* in Brussels, EC officials stress that this was not a traditional donor-donee agreement, and that mutual interest would be pivotal to the package.

"It is no longer one of building dams or power stations, but something much larger— we all realise India's potential especially now that it has introduced a certain number of changes in its policies", said Emiliano Fossati, director for Asia, EC External Relatibons.

Indo-EC relations date back to the early sixties with India being one of the first countries to recognise the

community and establish trade relations. Brussels and New Delhi signed an ambitious trade and economic cooperation agreement in 1981 replacing one that had been entered into some 10 years earlier. The latest agreement—a third generation one—has been drawn up after India indicated that it wanted to strengthen its relations with the EC.

No new trade concessions are planned and nothing that was not possible in the 1981 agreement will become available after the new accord is initialled, EC officials say. "But, the stress is different, this cooperation will be centred around the private sector in business to business cooperation under a concept of mutual interest". Fosatti said.

Officials also said with the "red tape raj" nearly dismantled. [sentence as published]

Commentary Views Pact With EC

BK1712125392 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Journalist S.L. Kaul's commentary]

[Text] Indo-EC trade pact signed on 11 December at Brussels not only recognizes the positive aspects of India's economic reform process but also gives India a status of partnership in development. The first agreement, signed in 1973, dealt with trade and commercial cooperation and the second agreement, signed in 1981, enlarged the scope of the first agreement. The pact which runs for five years declares that two sides will further develop and diversify trade and would seek newer forms of economic cooperation. The two sides also acknowledged the value of consulting each other on international, economic, and commercial issues of mutual interest. The cooperation covers sectors, such as industry and services, energy including solar energy, telecommunications, electronic information and satellite technologies, standards, investment, agriculture, horticulture, food processing industries and fisheries, science and technology, information and culture, environment, human resource development, and drug abuse control.

The one-day Indo-EC Business Forum meeting in New Delhi early this month had identified some 30 areas for promoting joint ventures and also identifying what India expects of EC in joint ventures and for direct investment in India. Two ventures have already been approved under European Community Investment, ECIP [as heard], scheme which provides seed capital for joint venture funds and offers assistance in upgrading technical skills and transferring technology from EC countries. Funds also made available for identification of projects, partners, preparation and analysis of specific joint ventures, financing capital needs, and development of human resource and technical assistance.

If European Community is really interested in making Indian economic reform program a success, the community must provide greater market access to it for exports, particularly textiles, and make larger investment in India. It is the open markets of industrialized countries that were needed to push Indian reforms in the economic fields. This point should be also taken up by India at the Uruguay round of negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The inclusion of textile sector in GATT negotiations is much more important for ensuring greater market access for developing countries, as it is highly labor-intensive and provides employment opportunities. At present, tariff barriers and antidumping investigations are preventing market access in industrialized countries. Often, when a new product is introduced by a developing country, in an industrialized country antidumping investigations are started.

As far as the foreign investment in India is concerned, it depends on creating investment climate and opportunities. Industrial reforms and infrastructural changes, if properly implemented on the ground, would go a long way in creating climate and opportunities. Secondly, all state controls which breed corruption and cause delay, dampening the spirit of investors, must go forthwith. Besides, India must absorb all foreign aid. It is really a matter of concern that some $20 billion of foreign aid is lying unused for one reason or the other. If the aid cannot be absorbed by the public sector, it must be diverted to private sector on projects prepared with close collaboration with EC countries. India must provide, and urgently, a single-window clearance system. Applications for foreign investment could be routed through a single authority which should include concerned state government representatives to expedite clearance and approvals. The company concerned should get a reply from this authority giving approvals within a month of submission of proposals. In addition, a high-profile industrial delegation from India with powers to approve proposals should also visit Europe to seek joint ventures in India as well as in third countries. Again, nontariff barriers affecting export and import trade must go and they should treat each other as preferred partners. Indo-EC joint venture products and services should have reciprocal tariff concessions and exemptions. As the joint business group felt, Indian government must clearly enunciate the scope of public liability clauses applicable to foreign investors. For covering such risks, insurance cover-up should be made available by insurance companies in India. Alternatively, EC companies should be permitted to take insurance cover with foreign insurance companies.

To attract foreign investment, India needs to pay more attention to power generation, telecommunications, transport and creation of central financial agencies for infrastructure development, so that waiting time of foreign investors in gestation period is reduced to the minimum. The last but not the least is the need to create an Indian data bank. Though the task of data collection is enormous, but such a data bank, once established, would act as a catalyst and promote positive feedback process.

French Official Discusses Nuclear, Space Cooperation

BK2112163192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] At the foreign secretary-level talks in New Delhi today, India and France reviewed bilateral cooperation in space, nuclear technology, and defense purchases and supplies. The talks lasted for five hours. Briefing reporters, an official spokesman said a determined effort was made at the meeting to translate the excellent political relations between the two countries into substantive channels like trade, investment, science and technology. The Indian side to the discussions was led by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit. The French Foreign Office secretary general, Mr. Serge Boidevaix, led his country's delegation.

Withdrawal From Chinese Border Draws Criticism

BK1712101092 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Dec 92 p 1

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi sections among the Army top brass are surprised at the sudden and massive withdrawal of troops from the Sino-Indian border, reversing the graduated military strategy of 1980.

This has possibly something to do with the way the political and military leadership of the country perceive the sitution, coupled with the fact that India is probably the only country of its size and stature, which does not have a system of direct military advise at the highest political level.

An entire corps (over 35,000 troops) built over nearly six years has been substantially reduced to penny-pockets. This at places where the two armies stand face-to-face! Even a tank combat team in place near Chushul in Ladakh, in place since the early 80s, was recently airlifted back.

More than this sudden de-induction, what is being questioned is the rationale behind taking recourse to the pre-1962 "forward policy". Simply put, instead of moving troops back from the disputed Mac Mohan line to high altitude locations of Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern sector where they could have provided some deterrence, the Army now confronts the Chinese with insufficient back-up forces.

Sources point out that this has lost us four advantages. First, deployment of sufficient troops on the forward line, was a must: operational readiness can only be achieved by the physical presence of troops.

Second, except for certain areas in Walong of Lohit district of Arunachal, the average height of the terrain—14,000 feet—necessitates stages of acclimatisation for troops.

And given the fact that while the Brahmaputra in Assam—with just three bridges—provides an ideal interdiction line to the Chinese air force. No such advantage is available to the Indian air force on the border with Tibet.

Third, forward defences for an entire corps built over time, incurring crores of rupees, can hardly be well maintained without troops living in the place.

And, most importantly, while surface communications along the Mac Mohan line in Kameng, Subansari, Siang, Lohit and—especially—Walong are still unsatisfactory, China has increased its capabilities manifold.

Beijing can initiate offensive action along the entire border, at will, with its local superiority. Its strategic internal movement capacity is now of a conticenental scale. Its prowess in moving modernised rapid reaction forces was amply demonstrated in 1988, when a 10,000-strong airborne division was transported from mainland to Tibet in less than 48 hours. Its light and sturdy vehicles, though of vintage, are eminently suitable for the Karakoram and Himalayan theatres.

On the doctrinal side, its shift from a general war to localised and border wars indicates its re-orientation to confrontation. And "war under modern conditions" with concepts like counter-attack in self-defence have aggresive and offensive connotations...

For these reasons, the army strategy against China, notwithstanding warmer relations between the two countries and Beijing's pre-occupation with its four modernisation drives, still mentions a limited counter-offensive capability, with deterrent utilisation of air power.

In the Eastern sector, emphasis is on improving communications and strengthening defences. In the northern Ladakh sector, where a Chinese road runs close to international border, like south of Chushul (Demchok) area, special attention should be paid.

And India will find it difficult to abandon northern most Indira Col heights in Siachen due to its proximity to Shaksgam valley in the east, under Chinese occupation.

On the other hand, political perceptions hardly differentiate between capabilities and intentions. The Chinese intentions for the present are, undoubtedly, friendly. Visits at the highest political levels have been exchanged. Beijing has encouraged confidence-building-measures to obtain a peaceful border, through army hotlines, biannual meetings between the two sector commanders, opening of limited border posts for trade and delegate exchanges at various levels. And defence minister Sharad Pawar, after his China visit, told ENS [Express News Service] that Beijing wants peace on all its borders to pursue unhindered its four modernisations.

But China's response to simultaneously examining the border issue and creating peace on the border has been lukewarm. While encouraging tranquility on the border is important, China's reluctance to initiate talks on this

front needs to be understood in its proper perspective, shorn of political and diplomatic niceties.

Iran

Velayati Said Planning To Meet Egypt's Musa

LD2112160292 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—A morning daily Monday revealed that Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was seriously considering the plan for a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa.

The "TEHRAN TIMES", quoting an informed source at the Foreign Ministry, said that the meeting was proposed by the Egyptian foreign minister recently who expressed his country's intention to resume diplomatic ties with Iran.

The "high-level" source, who preferred to remain anonymous, told TEHRAN TIMES that "the two nations of Iran and Egypt have had a history of long friendly and brotherly relations."

Khomeyni Tells Hizballah To Continue Resistance

LD2212115392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] At a meeting with a group of the operational commanders of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that the deportation of clergymen, scholars, and Palestinian strugglers from their territory and birthplace under inhuman circumstances and the lack of reaction to it from phoney human rights defense forums, was an attempt to create a climate of terror and fear among Muslims. He emphasized that the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims should continue their justice-seeking struggles to liberate themselves from those who only understand the language of force.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni asserted that the revolutionary movement of Lebanon's Hizballah is a movement that stemmed from the popular uprisings of the oppressed Muslims of that country. He said: Lebanese and Palestinian strugglers should not for a moment halt their justice-seeking resistance. He continued: The inhuman actions of the Zionist regime and arrogance against the helpless Muslims of Palestine and Lebanon show that defense of human rights provides Westerners and Zionists with a pretext to commit more crimes.

Yazdi Terms Expulsion of Palestinians 'Unlawful'

LD2112165792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Referring to the government policy to permit expatriate Iranians who have not committed any crime to return, Judiciary Chief Yazdi stressed that those individuals who return will be immune from arrest and prosecution. Speaking at a session of judicial officials today, he added: The country's judicial authorities will review applications by expatriate Iranians on the basis of approved laws.

The judiciary chief said the action of the Zionist regime in expelling more than 400 Palestinian Muslims from their home is unlawful and contrary to recognized principles. He called on international forums to combat such actions. [passage omitted]

Daily Criticizes Clinton's Support for Israel

LD2212071292 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran Dec. 22, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Tuesday commented on the statements of the U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton which described Israel as the most democratic regime in the Middle East, and said Clinton should elaborate what he means by the term "democratic".

During the presidential elections, Bill Clinton supported the Zionist regime and said that giving total support to the "most democratic regime" in the Middle East was among America's prime duties.

"Clearly the term 'democratic' must have a special meaning for Mr. Clinton which has not yet been included in any known lexicon," said the daily referring to the Zionist regime's decision to deport 400 Palestinians from their homeland in defiance of all international laws even before Clinton's settling down in the White House.

The daily stressed in its editorial that the regime occupying Quds [Jerusalem] carried out this move as usual without paying the slightest attention to the United Nations and the resolutions of the Security Council.

If Clinton based his evaluation on the fact that there were two political parties in that country, the daily said, "one could also point out that even within the Mafia groups, certain internal disputes and management problems are probably put to the vote."

"Under the circumstances Bill Clinton should explain the criteria by which he has judged and evaluated Israel as the most democratic country in the Middle East."

In conclusion, the daily said, "It would have been more proper for Clinton if his advisors had thought of better justifications for their blind and unconditional support for Israel."

Agreement Reportedly Signed With Sudanese Intelligence

NC2112165092 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 20 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that a protocol for security cooperation between the Iranian and Sudanese

intelligence services has been signed. The protocol serves the Iranian desire to help Sudanese security agencies carry out terrorism against elements opposed to the Sudanese Islamic Front's regime, as well as against other Arab regimes.

The same reports indicate that according to the first part of this protocol, which already has been implemented, teams from the Sudanese intelligence service have been trained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The reports add that this new experiment, the first of its kind, comes after foreign intelligence services discovered the Revolutionary Guards' training camps in Mashhad and Qom. One of the Sudanese UN employees working in Tehran is arranging for remote locations for this training. One of these sites is at 50 Mir Street, north of Tehran.

Economic Understanding Reached With Ethiopia

LD2112183492 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—Iran and Ethiopia reached understanding here today in the areas of oil exports, oil exploration and research in Ethiopia, training of manpower for the agriculture sector as well as exports of construction materials.

The understanding was reached during the second Joint Economic Commission of the two countries, chaired by Vice President and Head of the Budget and Planning Organization Masud Roghani Zanjani.

Ethiopian Planning Minister Duri Mohammed who represented his country at the meeting termed Iran's progress as "significant", and said his country was keen on expansion of ties with Iran.

Zanjani also termed the talks as "positive" and said the two countries have historical, political and cultural ties, which warrant expanded cooperation between in view of the current developments in the world. [sentence as received]

Rafsanjani on 'Propaganda War' Against Iran

LD2112172792 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a gathering of governors general of the provinces here today that the enemies of the Islamic Republic were panicked by the ideals of the Islamic Revolution which was the reason they were waging a propaganda war against Iran.

He said because the enemies of Iran were bearing a grudge against Iran and because they eyed Iran's industrial and economic progress with resentment, they have launched a disreputing propaganda war by alleging that Iran was after large arms purchases and development of nuclear weapons.

Elsewhere in his address to the gathering he said the Islamic Republic had successfully reduced her foreign exchange commitments since last March 21, without adversely affecting the growth of the domestic economy.

According to the president, welfare projects in the economically deprived areas of the country would continue until national economic balance is achieved.

He also indicated that his administration has already surmounted all obstacles on the way of the current first five year national development plan now in its fourth year.

During the meeting Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdullah Nuri offered a report on a just-concluded seminar of governors general of the provinces.

Radio Views GCC Differences on Security Issue

LD2112174892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1103 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The issue that is most likely to lead to differences during the current session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is that of reaching agreement on security arrangements in the Persian Gulf. This problem was on the agenda of the previous two sessions in Doha and Kuwait; however, due to discrepancies and thorny differences on security arrangements among member states, no agreement was reached.

So far the GCC has been unable to solve differences among its members or differences between one of its members and an outside party. The GCC could not independently handle the crises arising out of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait two years ago and the recent border dispute and clash between Qatar and [Saudi] Arabia. In practice, outside intervention has alleviated the crisis on both occasions.

Such experiences, which have cost dear, must guide the future actions of Persian Gulf littoral states. Clearly, the security system in the Persian Gulf is not something that can be established by either the GCC or any other country on its own. Naturally, the GCC is aware of this point: Iran, which controls half the Persian Gulf, cannot be ignored. Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the GCC has addressed Iran in two opposing ways, and this has led Iran to doubt the seriousness of the GCC in reaching agreement on security arrangements. Although the eight-year epic of the heroic people of Iran during the holy defense [Iran-Iraq war] has shown that Islamic Iran can handle any invasion without foreign assistance, Tehran has repeatedly announced its readiness to participate in a security system with the countries of the Persian Gulf in order to prevent another invasion occurring in the region.

The instability in Iraq, which is mainly caused by foreign factors [as heard], has hitherto prevented Iraq from participating in any regional security arrangement. The GCC cannot make a final decision on a major regional security arrangement until the situation in Iraq becomes clear; for no regional agreement will include Iraq while Saddam remains in power.

* Iran Called 'New Cuba' For Radical Movements

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[Article by Dr. 'Ali Nuri-Zadih and AL-MAJALLAH correspondents in Cairo and Amman: "Revolutionary Arab Shops Have Created 'New Cuba' in Tehran; Information Revealed by AL-MAJALLAH for the First Time"]

[Text] With the changes in some features of the political map in many countries in the region and the swapping of some concepts, Iran has emerged on the scene as a major host and supporter for many of the political and religious parties and organizations heading in diverse directions in the region. The two sides have achieved their reciprocal interests: Iran has the tools with which to realize its goals, and the organizations have secured continued support. Here, AL-MAJALLAH looks into the case.

Since the first meeting of revolutionary and liberation movements and parties in Tehran during the festivities on the first anniversary of the victory of the revolution, up until this past October, when the Iranian leadership received the leaders of the Palestinian movement Hamas, Iran spent the equivalent of $14 billion—either directly, or through official channels, through the revolution's institutions, or militant clergymen's offices—to support revolutionary movements and organizations in the world and to promote revolutionary propaganda—or, in common Iranian usage, to export its revolutionary culture. In 1990 alone, the Iranian Government earmarked $120 million to support revolutionary activities in Lebanon, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and a number of Arab countries, while the cost of propaganda aimed at these countries through magazines, newspapers, books, organizing conferences and symposia, and offering material gifts to Islamist researchers, writers, and thinkers reached the millions of dollars. At the beginning of 1991, Iran raised its budget for supporting revolutionary factions and revolutionary propaganda by about 20 percent, with the goal of finding a a second launching base in Sudan, which, under existing agreements with Iran, was transformed into a transit station for advocates of extremism who receive part of their training in Iran and then go to Sudan before returning to their own countries. The friendship of Sudan is also highly obligated. Sources said that the volume of Iranian assistance to Sudan—in the form of oil, industrial equipment, automobiles, military materiel, services, financial aid, and funding for Chinese and North Korean arms deals from September 1991 to October 1992—was huge.

Those around President Rafsanjani assert that the Iranian Government has, since its election, drastically reduced the volume of financial and military aid to revolutionary parties and organizations in the region and cut off or frozen its ties with numerous organizations and factions in the Gulf region after the war to liberate Kuwait and the improvement of Iran's relations with its Gulf neighbors. However, there is evidence that indicates that the government's policy toward these organizations and factions is not followed by revolutionary organizations, such as the Revolutionary Guards, the Shahid [Martyr] Organization, the 15th of Khordad (5th of June) Organization, Imdad al-Imam [Imam's Relief Committee], and the Liberation Organizations Bureau, which reports to Revolutionary Guard Intelligence.

The recent statements of some senior Iranian officials, such as Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, Supreme Judicial Council Chairman Moqtada'i, and Khomeyni's son Ahmad, about the Islamic revolution's responsibility to support revolutionary movements and organizations in the Islamic world are yet another indication of the government's failure to unite the centers of power and to end the "heads of the sects." While there is no theoretical consensus among observers on the credibility of Rafsanjani and his men in their efforts to transform the revolution into a state and establish normal relations with the world in general and with the Arab and Islamic countries specifically, they agree that the efforts of Rafsanjani and the liberals cooperating with him will be in vain as long as the Iranian president does not make a quick decision against the power centers with the aim of stopping them and making them submit to government control.

The February Meeting

To examine the level of the government's relations with the region's radical factions and parties, and the role of the revolutionary institutions in support of these factions and parties, we must backtrack a little, to February 1980, when the first meeting of liberation movements and world revolutionary organizations was held in Tehran.

The revolution's main slogans, such as "Death to America and Israel and Tel Aviv," and other places, had their effect, attracting leftist and Islamic organizations and political parties.

When Yasir 'Arafat came to Iran one week after the victory of the Islamic revolution, he actually brought with him a message acknowledging Iranian revolutionary rule from all revolutionary parties and organizations. News of the historical popular and official reception 'Arafat and his delegation received was quick to reach the parties and organizations that were looking for a "new Havana" in the region. With the closing of the revolutionary shops in Egypt after the death of President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, the regimes called revolutionary in the region were unable to take 'Abd-al-Nasir's place, as far as supporting revolutionary factions and parties

west. Aside from that, the fall of Arab nationalist influence and the rise of political Islamic influence was a cause of the revolutionary regimes' avoidance in the PLO of support from those calling for a struggle against Western hegemony. During 'Arafat's visit to Iran and his meetings with the new officials, especially Khomeyni, the Revolutionary Command Council decided to give the Israeli Interests Office in Tehran to the Palestine Liberation Organization to use as its embassy. 'Arafat appointed his adviser Hani al-Hasan as PLO ambassador to the revolutionary government in Iran.

As a result of the throng of radical personalities and leaders of revolutionary parties and factions, the Foreign Ministry decided to establish a special bureau called the Liberation Movements Bureau, which was entrusted to and presided over by Sudabeh Sadiffi, the wife of Mr. Ghazanfarpur, one of Khomeyni's translators in Paris and later an ally of Bani-Sadr. While Sadiffi sought to create official channels for contact with internationally acknowledged liberation movements and parties, revolutionary personalities in Iran were taking steps outside the Foreign Ministry to support and protect their allies from the Shah's day; that is, anyone who had been in Beirut, Aden, or elsewhere who had a revolutionary slogan. As an example, Shaykh Mohammad Montazeri, son of Ayatollah Montazeri, who had a Bahrain passport in the name of Ghulam 'Abbas, issued invitations and plane tickets to some of his comrades who had been legally expelled from their countries. These comrades were to visit Iran and obtain their share of the spoils of the revolution.

When the first conference of liberation movements and parties was held in Iran, the number of attendees was more than three times the number that had received official invitations from the Iranian Foreign Ministry to attend. The rest showed up with unofficial invitations from people like Mohammad Montazeri.

Attending the Meeting

Among the parties and movements attending the meeting the following must be noted:

- Palestinian organizations whose delegations were led by Khalil Wazir (Abu-Jihad), whom the conference elected to be its chairman. However, a dispute over the conference broke out between Abu-Jihad and Iranian officials, which led some delegations to withdraw from the conference. The dispute was over the participation of some veiled individuals who put big banners in front of them in the name of imaginary revolutionary organizations in the region. Abu-Jihad vehemently opposed this and said that he would withdraw from the conference unless they removed their head wrappings so that people could recognize them.
- Iraqi Shi'ite opposition groups.
- A delegation of Egyptian radicals.
- The Fatani Organization from Thailand.
- An Islamic front from the Arab Maghreb.
- A delegation of Islamic movements in Sudan.
- Representatives of the Shia of Pakistan.
- Representatives of the Moro Front (it later came out that the Front had not authorized them to take part in the conference)

And there were dozens of representatives of the parties and factions who had nothing but a name.

One of the most important outcomes of this meeting, in which the Students Following the Line of the Imam played a major role in hosting, was that the conference evinced its support for the occupation of the American Embassy and seizure of its diplomats. In exchange, the conference participants received promises of future aid from the Iranian leadership, and of a joint struggle to establish revolutionary regimes in the region.

A short time after the holding of the Tehran conference, the Liberation Movements Bureau was placed under the auspices of the Revolutionary Guard, and its presidency was given to Mehdi Hashemi, the brother of Montazeri's son-in-law. Hashemi was able to use Montazeri's protection and the prodigious resources the Revolution had put at his disposal to establish a terrorist empire in the world whose men came from the farthest east to the farthest west.

The story of Hashemi himself is a strange and striking one. He had been arrested in the Shah's day for killing a senior clergyman, Shamsabadi, his wife, and one of his friends in Esfahan, because of Shamsabadi's opposition to what was called revolutionary Islam and Montazeri's method, which Hashemi represented in Esfahan. Hashemi and three of his followers were tried in Isfahan three years before the revolution, and sentenced to death, although the sentence was not carried out due to Savak's intervention with the Shah. Based on Savak documents brought to light by Hojjat al-Eslam Mohammad Reyshahri, Iran's former minister of intelligence during Mehdi Hashemi's trial under Khomeyni, Hashemi cooperated with Savak in prison, providing it with precise information about the activity of clergymen and religious factions opposed to the Shah. Hashemi got out of prison after the victory of the revolution, and became one of its senior leaders for five years. Then he was arrested. After the visit of McFarlane and Oliver North to Tehran in 1986, it became clear that he had leaked news of the visit to the Lebanese magazine AL-SHIRA'. He was also implicated in the planning of a coup attempt against the regime. This time he was not saved from death by his ties to Montazeri, Khomeyni's son, and others, and he was executed 11 years after the murder of Shamsabadi.

The Hashemi Empire

With the rise of Hashemi's star and that of his bureau, the activity of the Liberation Movements Bureau began to broaden impressively, so that the bureau began, with time, to resemble an independendent ministry with a $9 million budget. The bureau established camps in Tehran and Qom to train members of Tehran-connected groups

in the region. In 1983 alone, more than 1,000 men and women, citizens of Arab and Islamic countries, were trained in these camps to fight, hijack planes, kidnap people, plant explosives and bombs, and carry out assassinations. It is worth noting that Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who became Iran's ambassador to Syria on the eve of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon took on, independently of Hashemi, the task of setting up a world revolutionary council, under his own supervision, to export the revolution. Mohtashemi never acknowledged the qualifications of Hashemi and his bureau, so it was his goal to set up an alternative bureau. To this end, Mohtashemi recruited members in Syria and Lebanon to set the youths from the Gulf states and Jordan, and others who spent their vacations in Lebanon and Syria, with the aim of sending them to Iran or al-Biqa' in Lebanon for training. In 1984, after the establishment of the Ministry of Intelligence, there was added to Hashemi's and Mohtashemi's bureaus a new office in the field of recruiting Muslim and Arab men and youths opposed to the regimes in their countries. With the execution of Hashemi and Mohtashemi's posting back to Iran, followed by the unfolding of the Iran-Iraq war and Khomeyni's consent to end the war, which caused new changes in Iran, then Khomeyni's death and the advent of pragmatic government to the Rafsanjani-Khamenei duo, Iran's relations with the revolutionary parties and organizations—whether those spawned by the Islamic revolutions (Hizballah, the Islamic Jihad, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the Movement to Implement Ja'fari [i.e. Shiite] Jurisprudence in Pakistan, Hizballah in the Gulf and Maghreb states, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, IMYO [Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization], the Afghan Islamic Unity Party, the Grouping of Muslim Clergy in Lebanon, Group of Clergy of the Hijaz, etc.), or factions allied with Iran, such as the National Islamic Front in Sudan, a faction of the Tunisian Ennahdah Movement, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, the al-Jihad Movement in Egypt, FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in Algeria, the Palestinian organizations opposed to the PLO, and the Sunni fundamentalist movements in Lebanon (Islamic Unification Movement, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, and others)—went through radical changes because of the Iranian leadership's new policies toward the countries that had, before the war, been on the enemies list, chiefly the Gulf states. For their part, the Gulf states revealed in their dealing with Iran after the Iraqi aggression in Kuwait that it was necessary to distinguish between Iran's slogans and what went on in the heads of Iranian officials, and to welcome the Iranian leadership's steps to open a new chapter in Iranian-Gulf relations. Although the issue of Abu-Musa Island and the diversity of Iranian relations with some Arab countries (Yemen, Sudan, the Palestinian "Rejection Front") and the continued interference of some Iranian agencies in the affairs of the Arab and Islamic countries that sought the friendship of Iran through the support and strengthening of opposition forces in these countries raised doubts in Arab and Islamic countries about the true intentions of the Iranian leadership, there are several signs that indicate Iran is no longer the "promised paradise" for everyone "wanted" by his country's authorities. The Iranian leadership, which had learned lessons the hard way in recent years, began to look at regional issues differently than it had in the past. Even so, the reassurance of the Arab and Islamic countries about Iran's intentions will not be complete as long as the revolution's institutions and some official agencies continue to send military and financial aid and set up training centers inside and outside Iran to train extremist factions in the region, according to a Gulf diplomat in London. A glance at the map of Iran's relations with revolutionary parties and movements in the region shows that 14 movements, parties, and fundamentalist organizations enjoy the support of Iranian agencies. Among these movements and organizations are Hizballah; Islamic Amal; the Grouping of Muslim Clergy; the Islamic Unification Movement; the Islamic Jihad (Ibrahim Fathi's breakaway faction) in Lebanon; one of the Gulf groups; the Movement to Implement Ja'fari Jurisprudence in Pakistan, which has an armed militia; Iraqi Shiite factions; al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in Egypt; a wing of the Islamic Jihad led by Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, known for his connections to members of the Iranian Interests Section in America, elements connected to Iran, Hizballah, and the Afghan trend inside FIS in Algeria; and the extremist wing of the Ennahdah movement. This is in addition to continued support for Sudanese factions. There are three camps north of Khartoum and southwest of Port Sudan for training extremist elements that are under the supervision of Iranian trainers from the Revolutionary Guard.

Finally, Iran, despite its ongoing support for Islamic political movements, has not succeeded thus far in eliminating its fundamental conflicts with the Muslim Brotherhood. The efforts of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic National Front in Sudan, to bridge the gap between Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, came up against the movement's reservations because it still looks upon the Iranian revolution with many misgivings, chiefly the sectarianism of the Iranian revolution, its religious slogans, and the opposition of the idea of the "rule of the jurisprudent" [in Iran] with the concept of the Islamic caliphate proposed by the Brotherhood.

In a meeting between former Iranian ambassador to the Vatican, (Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Khosru Shahi), and late Muslim Brotherhood leader Shaykh 'Umar Tilmisani when Tilmisani/he was bedridden in a Swiss hospital, the late Shaykh praised Iran's resistance against Iraq and its application of Islamic law, but he rejected the idea of rule by the jurisprudent. While there is presently a sort of dialogue between the movement's branches in Jordan, Tunisia, and Sudan, and the Iranian revolution, the parent movement in Egypt is still unconvinced by the propriety of the Iranian revolution's demands.

Egyptian Extremism the Iranian Way

Despite the Egyptian Government's official recognition of the new regime and its permission for some politicians

and major writers to travel to Tehran to celebrate the revolution and Khomeyni's return, with the onset of the 1980's Egyptian-Iranian relations flagged and turned confrontational, with the mounting of media wars.

In the second half of the 1980's, Egyptian security worries reached their climax as a result of intense Iranian action with opposition members and factions. Several measures were taken to abort this action:

- A rejection of all types of action on the part of the Muslim Brotherhood to restore legitimacy to their movement, after the end of 30 years' tolerance, and a ban on the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood, which had stepped up its activities—but after its alliance with Wafd parties in the 1984 elections and with Labor in 1987 and 1992 and a refusal to discuss the Islamic constitution offered by Ma'mun al-Hudaybi in the People's Assembly, because he was considered a member of the Assembly and the official media spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood.
- The rejection of what were called religious parties, in accordance with the clear text of Law 77/40 governing parties and the pursuit of political activity, with more than five religious parties being submitted by their founders to the Political Parties Committee in two years, among them the Shiite parties and others accused by Former Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr of being Iranian.
- The revoking of the licenses of some Shiite religious parties, among them the Ahl al-Bayt [Family of the Prophet] Society, based on security reports.
- The security agencies' curbing, over 10 years, of three Shiite groups and their referral to the Supreme State Security Prosecutor. These were: —Case 87/401, unreleased by State Security. —Case 88/341, unreleased by State Security, in which, Arab persons were for the first time charged with joining this group, among them Bahraini, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Pakistani students. —Case 89/469, unreleased by State Security, in which more than 50 persons from the city of al-Mahallah al-Kubra were charged with forming an Iranian-style Shi'ite group.

Interrogation reports submitted by the State Security Police to the investigators said that these groups sought to overthrow the government by force and unconstitutionally establish an Islamic state, along the lines of the Iranian revolution. In addition, members received direct Iranian funding in support of publications, societies, or salaries for members, and Shiite thought was intended to be spread and promoted, along with the thinking of the Iranian revolution, through discussion encounters and organizational meetings. The investigations and interrogations also revealed the following:

- Iran's establishment of three Egyptian publishing firms to spread Shiite thought and Khomeyni's own thinking.
- The three groups charged in the State Security cases traveled to Tehran and held meetings with leaders of the Iranian Revolution, among them 'Ali Akbar Velayati.
- One of the leaders of the Shiite movement in Egypt, Dr. Fahmi al-Shinnawi, treated Khomeyni for prostate cancer. After Shinnawi returned home, he prepared a huge book, considered the first of its kind, titled *Toward a Political Islam*, in which he elucidated the precepts of the government and its rule according to Islamic law, the terms of the imamate, the return of the caliphate, the manner of selecting the caliph, and the concept of democracy in Shiite thought.

With the beginning of the 1990's, there appeared on the Egyptian political scene certain publications and productions that representated a kind of new challenge in Iranian-Egyptian relations, such as the fact that one of the leaders of Shiite thought in Egypt prepared a huge book about the ideological and political origin of the Islamic movement in Egypt in the 1970's and 1980's, largely devoted to connections to radical religious groups and the Iranian revolution.

Ahmad Jibril Paved the Way for Iran to Penetrate the PLO and Cemented Its Ties to Hamas

Until the Palestinians' exodus from Beirut following the famous Israeli invasion of 1982, there were no disruptions to speak of within the PLO, between its left and its right, though the history of the relations between the PLO and the former guide of the Iranian revolution date back to the late 1960's, when the Fatah movement sent Khomeyni, when he was still in al-Najaf in Iraq at the end of the 1960's, a delegation headed by Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal), who had not yet broken away to form his own group, to explain Palestinian realities to him and to ask him to issue a religious ruling for Shiites everywhere to allocate their religious alms tax for "the mujahidin of the occupied holy land."

It has been proved that Khomeyni never issued any such religious ruling and that subsequent years, particularly after the Palestinian resistance settled in Lebanon after its expulsion from Jordan, witnessed maximum Palestinian cooperation with the religious opposition to the regime of the former Shah of Iran. The Palestinians' urgent need for the Lebanese Shiites is what drove this cooperation, with arms and training, in addition to media, political, and financial help.

According to Palestinian sources, among the senior Iranian officials who spent years in the camps of Fatah and other PLO factions was Ahmad Montaseri, a son of Ayatollah Mohammad Montaseri whose colleagues in the Palestinian resistance called him "Ahmad Ringo" [i.e. suggesting a Wild West gunslinger], and (Jalal Farsi), who returned to Tehran with a number of colleagues on board the same plane that carried Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on his first visit to the Iranian capital after the triumph of the "revolution" and the return of Khomeini from his exile in France.

Because post-revolutionary Iran was interested in changing its arms policy from American to Soviet and

Eastern European arms, 'Arafat, after returning to Beirut from Iran, sent a delegation of senior Palestinian military men, led by Colonel Abu-Hajim, the brother of Abu-Za'im, who later left the PLO to take over the training of some contingents of the Revolutionary Guards to use East European arms. But this mission was a total failure.

After the Exodus

Thus, relations between Iran and domestic Palestinian reality remained in this framework, and did not change until after leaving Beirut in late 1982. The information mentioned that Iran took part to some extent in preparing the mutiny against Fatah led by Muhammad Sa'id Muraghah (Abu-Musa) in the spring of 1983. According to this information, a former member of Fatah's Central Committee, Nimr Salih (Abu-Salih), who was the visible part of the mutiny, made a secret visit to Iran in this period and collected an installment of financial assistance, which some people say was as much as $7 million, while others say that it was no more than $5 million.

It is worth noting here that 'Arafat had completely aligned Fatah and the PLO with Iraq, after having committed himself to neutrality, and tried to play the role of mediator directly after the outbreak of the first Gulf war, to the extreme annoyance of the Iranian leadership. It moved the Iranians to seek ties and alliances inside the Palestinian scene, and in circles deeply in conflict with the chief and official leadership of the PLO because of the position on developments in the Middle East crisis and for other reasons related to power, influence, and representation in power contexts, among them the National Council and the Executive Committee.

The Racehorse

Even though Iran, as acknowledged by those who broke away from Fatah, calling their new group Fatah-Intifadah, was generous in supporting the schism—on top of Libya's support and that of other Arab countries, Iran's real racehorse was the former Syrian Army major, Ahmad Jibril, who came out with a new group of his own after breaking away from the Popular Front, led by Dr. George Habash, in 1968. Until the mid-1980's, he considered Jibril's group, which was and still is called the Popular Front-General Command [PFLP-GC], a virtual extension of Libyan influence in the Palestinian world. According to a view held by many, the PFLP-GC became acquainted with Iranian intelligence and the department concerned with violence and explosion operations abroad, through Libyan intelligence, and was quick to shift its weight from Tripoli to Tehran after pressure was put on Libya and the Libyan leadership began gradually to renounce and abandon the factions and organizations it had worked with in the field of overseas operations.

It appears that the PFLP-GC was the channel for Iranian penetration of the Palestinian scene and that it was Jibril personally who prepared the way for those who broke away from Fatah in 1983 to reach Tehran, a fabric of the threads of the ties between Iran and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), and helped to introduce Iranian officials after the holding of the Madrid conference to the leftist factions that carried weight within the PLO, such as the Popular Front and the Democratic Front led by Na'if Hawatmah.

While some of the organizations refused to go beyond political coordination with Iran and with those close to Iran, such as the Popular and Democratic Fronts and Fatah-Intifadah, the PFLP-GC went from one move to another, setting up operations rooms with Iranian extremists, led by former Interior Minister Muhammad Muhtashami, and with the Revolutionary Guard wing responsible for tracking down the opposition and carrying out operations abroad.

Some believe that Jibril's role and that of the PFLP-GC were not limited to mere coordination with the Iranian agencies engaged in tracking down the Iranian opposition, or at the level of cooperating in some of the operations in Europe at the end of the 1980s, but went beyond these to a role in a series of connections between the Iranians and the violent groups formed in Egypt, Algeria, Iran, and other Arab countries.

Although Western agencies and officers put the blame on Libya and Libyan intelligence, the Libyans themselves passed on to the British and the Americans information confirming that it was PFLP-GC networks led by Jibril that carried out the famous bombing of the Pan American plane over Lockerbie, Scotland in the northern United Kingdom, in cooperation with Iranian intelligence, as a response to the downing of an Iranian passenger plane over the Gulf by fire from an American warship.

A Frank Accusation

Western agencies had directed a frank accusation at the PFLP-GC of having carried out the Lockerbie operation for Iranian intelligence, and in cooperation with it, and even asked for the expulsion of Jibril and his Front from Syria and the closing of his camps on Syrian and Syrian-controlled territory inside Lebanon's borders.

In more precise information, it says that there are joint training camps in the al-Biqa' region and the Beirut suburbs with Shiite dominated populaces presided over by the PFLP-GC, Hizballah, and a branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' overseas operations, and that camps were taking over the training of groups from extremist religious movements in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and some other countries the Iranians include in the framework of their future operations.

What is striking about Iranian infiltration of the Palestinian scene, as some Palestinian sources say, is that a Christian writer in Jerusalem, Munir 'A., who embraced Islam and the Shiite sect in the mid-1980's, played a key role in the mounting and escalating Iranian influence

even inside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. According to Palestinian sources, he started out as a communist and ran the cultural office of the Jordanian Communist Party. He was held in the al-Ja'fir Prison in the Jordanian desert for several years, abandoned his membership in the party, and joined Fatah from the beginning. He became a representative of the Maoist line inside the PLO.

Subsequently, according to these sources, after the failure of the experimental coordination between Munir and Naji 'Allush, who had split away from Fatah and formed his own organization at the end of the 1970s, which he called the Popular Arab Movement, Munir became smitten with the Iranian revolution, becoming, after he embraced the Shi'ite sect, a major advocate of the Iranian line on the Palestinian and Arab scene. It appears that in the beginning he tried to establish an Iranian pocket inside Fatah, relying on some of the students who had cooperated with him in the framework of "student secrecy" and that after finding extreme difficulty in that, he began to gravitate toward the Hamas movement, which is considered the PLO's chief rival inside the occupied territories.

Here it must be pointed out that the Iranians tried to establish a Palestinian group linked directly to them, called Hizballah, along the lines of Hizballah in Lebanon. But while they might have recorded some limited successes in the Palestinian camps on Lebanese territory, they made no progress on this front, neither inside the occupied territory nor in Jordan, which has a Palestinian population nearly equal to the Palestinian presence inside the occupied territories.

The Al-Jihad Movement

While Iran has failed so far to establish a branch of Hizballah in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, in the Palestinian camps in the surrounding countries it has met with some success in setting up the Islamic "Jihad" group with a number of those who had been members of Fatah and other Palestinian factions, led by a person called "Fathi Sh.," now living in Damascus but constantly visiting Tehran and the southern suburb of Beirut. Official Palestinian sources confirmed that he has direct links to the Iranian Embassy in Damascus, that he receives his instructions from security agencies that share the diplomatic status the embassy offers as its cover, and that he supervises camps with the help of Iranian experts in the al-Biqa' plain in Lebanon to create Palestinian groups capable of taking action in the fields of assassination, explosions, and overseas operations.

These sources confirmed that Fathi was able to infiltrate Fatah and recruit a number of third- and fourth-rank officials, among them the political guide of Palestinian forces, connected to the Bilal al-Hus camp in North Yemen, who was recently arrested and is still being held for questioning on the charge of high treason in this camp. Palestinian security agencies are afraid this political guide was able to recruit agents to assassinate a number of senior Palestinian officials, among them Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat himself. Some of this information suggests that Abu-'Ammar's protection agency was able to put a stop to the information leaking to Iranian intelligence with the help of some Palestinian factions.

Information was mentioned about a verbal clash and an exchange of threats between 'Arafat and Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani at the most recent Nonaligned Summit, held in Indonesia. Palestinian sources say that the meeting of 10 Palestinian factions in Tehran came immediately after that incident.

While the sum of Iranian inroads into the Palestinian scene may represent considerable problems for the PLO, especially as some of the groups linked to Iran have carried out terrorist operations on behalf of Iranian intelligence in a number of Arab countries, among them Egypt and Algeria, and in some Western countries, the Palestinian leadership regards the relations, which started out small and then made quantum leaps in the wake of the well-known Madrid conference and the beginning of the current peace talks, as the major penetration into its area.

PLO circles said—and some of this is also acknowledged by Hamas spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah—that Tehran recently offered [Hamas] aid in the millions of dollars, that Tehran was giving Hamas a radio station for broadcasting inside Iranian territory and granting it representation in Iran on a higher footing than the Palestinian Embassy in Tehran.

According to some information, Hamas and some Palestinian factions opposed to the settlement process will move their principal headquarters to the Iranian capital at the slightest progress in the peace talks. Here, some say, there is a sharp dispute inside the Iranian leadership. One side of the leadership sees acting as a host to Hamas and the other rejectionist Palestinian factions as a strategic issue, while another thinks it unlawful to use the Palestinian situation outside the framework of maneuvering and gambling and pressure on countries and quarters in the Arab region. It appears that Hamas and its allied factions are seeking next the downfall of the PLO leadership. Some sources do not rule out the escalation of the clashes the occupied lands have seen, and are still experiencing now and then, between this group and Fatah, led by Yasir 'Arafat, into a Palestinian civil war in every sense of the word.

The IMYO Case Revealed Iranian Infiltration Through Quiet Economic and Political Relations

Before the emergence of the recent Islamic Motivation Youth Organization case, in which two members of Jordan's parliament, Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish, were charged, Jordanian officials did not sense that Iran had included Jordan in the context of exporting the Iranian revolution abroad, although during the years of the Iran-Iraq war Jordanian security agencies limited relations with Iranian intelligence, and some operations

were carried out by Palestinian factions against Jordanian officials and Jordanian targets.

A senior official in the Iranian Mujahedin-e Khalq opposition group visited Jordan last winter and warned Jordanian officials that Tehran had abandoned its old policy based on the idea of exporting the "revolution" by force of arms in favor of infiltrating the target countries through diplomatic missions and economic relations and the establishment of groups to follow their path and use the relations to link them to these countries.

This official said that the Committee for Security and Foreign Relations in Tehran had held a special meeting to study relations with Jordan, after these ties had grown after the second Gulf war. He said that their conclusions were that relations with Jordan were useless from the economic standpoint, but that they might be politically advantageous, given Jordan's central location between a number of Arab countries and because the country is the primary gateway to Palestine and an access point for infiltrating even Egypt and other states in the region.

While no direct links have ben proven between the "Muhammad's Army" group, which carried out some explosions and operations before it was discovered by the Jordanian security agencies, it is a fact that the Afghan Shiite groups had some ties with this group. It is known that these groups were controlled, one way or another, by Iranian intelligence, both before and after the successful Afghan revolution.

But the discovery of IMYO disclosed that Iran had included Jordan among its set of major targets and that while it actually had growing economic and political relations with Amman, it was seeking to form groups loyal to it within Jordan.

According to Jordanian sources, Ahmad al-Jalabi, who was proved to be a senior Iraqi Shiite opposition leader close to Iran and who founded Petra Bank, which collapsed some time ago, had been working to establish a foothold in Jordan.

As was said at the IMYO trial and in the evidence given by the Jordanian public prosecutor against the group and deputies Shubaylat and Qirrish, al-Jalabi, especially after fleeing from Jordan after the collapse of Petra Bank, had done his utmost to establish organizational ties between Tehran and Jordanian society, both directly and by way of Palestinian factions.

Jibril—Again

It was proven at the trials that Ahmad Jibril, through his Popular Front-General Command, was virtually the connecting link between IMYO and the concerned Iranian parties and that he transmitted tens of thousands of dollars to this group.

According the the evidence presented by the Jordanian public prosecutor, Deputy Shubaylat, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison with hard labor with his colleague Qirrish and who was freed in a general amnesty given by the Jordanian ruler King Husayn, had met with Jibril several times in Tehran, and he attended a conference with Jibril held by various Arab and Islamic extremist factions in the Iranian capital, and they agreed to coordinate their efforts.

Jordanian security sources expect Tehran to resort to stepping up the pressure on Jordan, now that IMYO is exposed and now that the Jordanian delegation in the Middle East negotiations has agreed upon a working agenda with the Israeli delegation, which Iran and the Palestinian factions loyal to it consider a virtual Israeli-Jordanian accord on the model of the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel.

It is well known that all Palestinian factions opposed to the settlement process, among them Jibril's Popular Front-General Command, work openly in Jordan, have publicly known offices, and go about their media and political activities with the knowledge of the Jordanian security agencies.

Names in the Iranian File [with photographs]

Lotfi Benkhallah is a young Tunisian who confessed, during an interview on France's Channel One, that he had revealed details of his ties to Iran to French intelligence in exchange for money and lifetime protection. This happened was in February 1990.

Benkhallah said that he traveled to Tehran in the early years of the Iranian Revolution and studied in Qom. He had strong ties to Mehdi Hashemi, but at the beginning of 1987 began to wonder about the nature of the regime in Iran. He then decided to go back to France and contact French intelligence, which at that time was in a state of confusion, searching for the perpetrators of the explosions of September 1986.

Mehdi Hashemi, charged in the Shah's day with killing Ayatollah Shamsabadi, took over responsibility for the circle of liberation movements and exporting the revolution until 1985.

Ayatollah Shamsabadi was a senior clergyman in Esfahan killed by Mehdi Hashemi because of his opposition to what was called revolutionary Islam.

[Pictured are] three members of a terrorist cell in Spain, whose members were students from a circle of revolutionary organizations. From the right: 'Abbas Jalal, 'Ali Sibayti, and Hasan Ra'd. They have been incarcerated since 1989 for the involvement in an attempt to smuggle hundreds of kilograms of explosives in jam and pickle jars to France and Spain.

New Asian Countries Group To Be Studied With PRC

LD1812135692 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Iran and China have agreed to survey ways and means to establish an organization of Asian countries and inform each other of the result of their studies.

In a meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister for Research 'Abbas Maleki and a Chinese International Relations Institute official here Thursday, the two sides also agreed to decide the number of researchers and the time to be spent on the research project in a near future.

Maleki said the research will be important due to Japan's regional strategy, Russia's recent inclination towards a Euro-Asian policy, the existence of such strong states as Iran, Pakistan and India and eventually the Central Asian Republics need to collective cooperation.

Confirming Maleki's proposal, the Chinese official in reply briefed him on various programs pursued by the Chinese institute including reasearch projects on human rights.

Maleki blasted the West's attitude towards the human rights issue in both Iran and China and called for expansion of bilateral Tehran-Beijing research cooperation in various fields.

New Border Crossing to Azerbaijan Opened

LD1912231992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The volume of trade exchange between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran reached $50 million this year. The governor general of East Azerbaijan Province announced this at a ceremony to mark the inauguration of the Aslanduz border crossing. He predicted that in view of the increasing trend toward bilateral cooperation the volume of such trade may well reach $100 million by the end of the current year [ending 20 March 1993], especially since joint border mini-markets will soon begin their activities in the Jolfa, Aslanduz, Khoda Afarin, and Bile Sovar areas.

The head of the Azerbaijani delegation who is taking part in the Joint Economic Commission said that the opening of the Aslanduz border crossing is a significant step toward breaking the economic blockade and providing basic foodstuffs to the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan. With the inauguration of the Aslanduz border crossing, the distance which buses and trucks have to drive to reach the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan is reduced by half. The traffic between Iran and Nakhichevan used to take place through the Astara border crossing.

Azerbaijan Tourism Minister Visits Kish Island

LD1912050392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Republic of Azerbaijan's minister of tourism, who was accompanying that Republic's first package tour, arrived in the Kish [Island] free trade zone.

The visit comes after the signing of a protocol of cooperation in the field of economy, trade, and tourism between the Kish free trade zone and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Upon arrival on Kish Island, Mr. (Gazanogli) took part in an interview with reporters, saying that the aim of his visit was further familiarization with Iranian culture and civilization and a review of grounds for cooperation. He termed his visit as a step toward the expansion of trade relations and the exchange of tourists between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Red Crescent Sends Relief Aid to Albania

LD1812200992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] In a spirit of humanitarianism, the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent a consignment of relief and food supplies on an army 707 aircraft to Albania following the floods and severe storms in that country.

The consignment coasists of 1,500 blankets, around eight tonnes of rice, over 16 tonnes of lentils, and 9,984 cans of various preserved foods.

President Calls for Celebrations To Mark '10-Day Dawn'

LD2112171892 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today called for more splendid celebration of the ten-day dawn, saying the new generation should be made aware of people's sacrifices and hardships during their struggle against the monarchist regime.

The ten-day dawn (Feb. 1-11) marks the arrival in Iran of the father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, after 15 years of exile on 1st February, 1979 and the triumph of the Islamic Revolution ten days later.

President Rafsanjani hailed the Islamic Revolution as a "great event" in human history.

He said enemies of the Islamic Revolution have spent lavishly in their bid to restrict the impacts of the revolution, ignorant of the fact that "the Islamic Revolution is not a regional or time-limited event."

He added that the new generation is not quite aware of the backing the wretched Pahlavi regime had from global

arrogance, the equipment it used to suppress the people and the difficulties the people faced during their struggle against it.

To protect and safeguard the revolution is much more difficult than its victory, he said.

"We are witnessing the difficulties countries such as Afghanistan and the newly independent (former Soviet) Republics are faced with, therefore our nation's great work in overcoming the difficulties through devotion and their presence in all the scenes after the triumph of the revolution should be recounted as people's epic," said the president.

Energy Official on Power Supply, Consumption

NC2212090892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The power shortage and scheduled or unscheduled power outages over the past few years sporadically created problems for the people. With the coming of cold weather and the increased use of heating and other electrical appliances by the people, the problem is usually aggravated.

Dear listeners. One of our correspondents, 'Attaran, held an exclusive meeting with the deputy energy minister for power, who is also director general of the Tavanir [state-run] power transmission company, to provide you with information on the condition of the country's power supply network and the plan to prevent repeated outages.

Our correspondent asked the Tavanir director general: In general, do you think we will experience power problems this winter despite the measures taken?

[Begin recording] [deputy energy minister] We anticipate a comfortable winter regarding the power supply, God willing, in view of the efforts made: the power plants that have been repaired; the new power stations that have been incorporated into the national grid; the remarkable cooperation by our colleagues in the Petroleum Ministry with the Energy Ministry the past year regarding ensuring fuel for maintaining reserves in the power stations, which utilize liquid fuel, as well as the coordination that has taken place in supplying gas fuel for the power plants, which use gas as fuel. We hope that the people will not suffer too much regarding power supplies or have any difficulties, God willing.

['Attaran] My next question pertains to the cost of power to families. Could you tell us how power supply rates are priced and will there be any change in rates?

[Deputy energy minister] As you know, power rates vary per family according to their consumption; that is, from 0 to 40 kilowatts per month electricity is free of charge. From 40 to 60 kilowatts it is calculated at five tumans per hour. From 60 kilowatts and above a surcharge of three rials is added, and from 150 kilowatts and above the rate is calculated at a higher rate; that is, at an additional four tumans an hour for extremely high consumption, which we consider rather wasteful for a family.

If you note, these rates that I announced do not include street lighting and subscriptions, which are added to the announced rates. Regarding changes in electricity rates in the future, in the opinion of the esteemed Supreme Economic Council and the esteemed Islamic Majles as well as our respected president, there may not be any changes in electricity in the near future. [end recording]

We hope that in the distant future, with the implementation of the program envisaged, electricity rates will not be increased. Another point mentioned by the deputy energy minister to our correspondent was the high level of electricity consumption in the country. Official statistics indicate that in the second half of the current month of Azar [22 November to 21 December], power consumption increases earlier in the night to more than 10,000 megawatts, its highest level, which creates problems regarding supplying power to cities and other areas of the country and underlines the need for austerity in power consumption.

Minister Comments on New Petrochemical Plant

LD1712221992 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Arak, Central Prov., Dec. 17, IRNA—Arak petrochemical complex will become operational early next year (to begin March 21, 1993), Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i announced here today.

He said with operation of the first phase of the complex between 300,000 to 350,000 tons of petrochemical products will be produced annually, and the amount will rise to 550,000 tons once the second phase is put into operation.

Iran imports all the products which are to be produced at the complex, Aqazadeh-Kho'i said, adding that rials 2.2-billion worth of the products have been sold in advance for the construction of the complex.

Aqazadeh said necessary equipment and instruments have been predicted for refining the wastes, so that the complex would pose no danger to the environment.

Cabinet Ratifies Bill on City Councils, Elections

LD1312212092 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The Cabinet completed its study of the city councils bill; and thanks to the ratification of this bill, the city council and municipality elections will be held simultaneously all over the country.

Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri, currently visiting Tabriz, while announcing the above during conversation with reporters, said: On the basis of this bill, two articles

of which were studied and ratified by the Cabinet, the councils will be given greater authority. According to this bill, the people will also elect the mayors directly.

Pakistan

President on 'Tolerance,' Ties With India

BK2212094492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has underscored the need for the development of a democratic culture of accommodation, tolerance, largeheartedness and mutual respect, and of rising above momentary expediencies and narrow interests. He was addressing the joint session of Parliament in Islamabad this morning, marking the beginning of the new parliamentary year. The president said the nation expected its elected representatives and institutions to play their due role to ensure that the sapling of democracy planted after countless sacrifices and a long and arduous struggle grows into a strong and stout tree. He pointed out that there are certain national issues on which there cannot be any room for disagreement, like the integrity of the country, strong defense capability, regional peace and cooperation, national unity, elimination of prejudices of various kinds, need to check population explosion, promote education, eradication of narcotics, giving a respectable place to women in the society, and rooting out corruption.

On economy, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the outgoing year was a difficult year for world economy and these negative factors had their impact on Pakistan also. However, the government showed high administrative ability and demonstrated an admirable sense of responsibility, (?urgency) in relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction work. He highly praised the role of the armed forces in this connection.

About law and order, the president complimented the government for courageously launching the cleanup operation in Sindh while rising above political expediencies and considerations. By the grace of Allah, he said, the operation has yielded positive results, the rate of crime has come down, life has returned to normal, and highways are safe. He praised the role of the armed forces who extended full support to the civil administration in restoring law and order. He made it clear that Operation Cleanup is a temporary process. He praised the performance of the Parliament over the last 12 months and said the two houses discharged their legislative and other responsibilities reasonably well. He discouraged the tendency of legislation through ordinances, although, he said, promulgation of ordinances is undoubtedly a constitutional procedure.

Turning to the international situation, the president referred to the massive transformation of world scene and the new emerging pattern of international relations free from tensions of the Cold War. Pakistan, he said, is watching the situation carefully and it is our endeavor that while remaining firm on principles and upholding our values, we should take full advantage of the evolving situation to further our national interest. He said Pakistan will continue to support an international order based on the principles of equality, justice, mutual respect, and cooperation.

About relations with India, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated Pakistan's sincere desire and constant endeavor to foster peace, security and cooperation, and to have better relations with India. He said it is our effort to find honorable settlement of all bilateral disputes, including Kashmir. He said Pakistan supports nuclear nonproliferation throughout the world and has been sincerely and ceaselessly working to keep this region free from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. He said India's policies are standing in the way of relieving South Asia of the fears of nuclear devastation. The president said Pakistan believes that this problem can only be resolved in regional contexts and referred to a number of concrete proposals made by Pakistan. He regretted that India has not so far responded to these proposals positively. After the president's address, the joint session of the parliament was prorogued.

Opposition Warns of Bloodshed Over Sharif Issue

BK2112163092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Dec 21 (AFP)—Senior opposition leaders warned Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at a rally here Monday that a bloodbath would take place if he did not sack Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government.

Addressing a crowd of thousands of people, Asghar Khan, a leader of former Premier Benazir Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), said if the president did not act now, he would be held "guilty" of violating the country's Constitution. Khan urged the president to use his powers to dissolve Parliament and said the PDA would eagerly wait for his speech at Parliament Tuesday.

If President Ishaq Khan showered praise on the Sharif government "we will make him also the target of our campaign."

The rally, part of the ongoing PDA campaign to oust Sharif and demand new elections, was to have been addressed also by Bhutto. But a spokesman said she had fallen ill and that doctors had advised her not to leave her hometown of Karachi.

Another PDA leader and close aide of Bhutto, Malik Qasim, also warned in a speech that there would be bloodshed in Pakistan if President Khan failed to dissolve Parliament, elected two years ago for a five-year term. He reiterated Bhutto's demand for installing a

government of national consensus to conduct free and fair elections, alleging that the 1990 polls were "massively rigged."

PDA sources said the opposition MPs would meet in Islamabad prior to the president's address Tuesday morning to formulate their parliamentary strategy. The opposition last year boycotted the traditional annual presidential address after provoking pandemonium in Parliament by hooting and thumping their desks.

The government, in an apparent gesture on the eve of president's speech, Monday let Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari out of prison to allow him to attend Parliament on Tuesday.

Zardari, who has been in a Karachi jail for the past two years facing criminal charges, has also been allowed to stay at his private residence "if he so desired," the official news agency APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] said quoting Gohar Ayub Khan, speaker of the lower house.

Editorial Views Arrest of Opposition Officials

BK2212093892 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Dec 92 p 10

[Editorial: "IJI's 'Salman Taseer factor'"]

[Text] PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] leaders Salman Taseer and Khalid Ghurki have been arrested outside the Special Court for the Suppression of Terrorist Activities in Lahore after the interim bail granted them by the High Court was cancelled. This has happened in the wake of the promulgation of the ordinance that ousted the jurisdiction of the High Court to entertain bail applications relating to cases being heard by the special courts. The treason case brought against the two PDA leaders is being heard by the Lahore special court amid a lot of controversy because of its obvious 'political' connection. The Punjab administration has been giving 'special treatment' to Salman Taseer since the days when he, as an opposition MPA [member, Provincial Assembly] in Punjab, started being a thorn in the side of the then chief minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif on the subject of his 'discretionary' expenditure. The long story of the not-so-convincing cases of terrorism and treason brought against him in the past is so well known that their 'political' nature is lost on no one. After the 'long march' he was given a thrashing by police officials, 'trained' by the government to 'sort out' troublesome opposition politicians. At no point during the persecution of Mr Taseer has the government scored any moral points or improved its political image at home or abroad.

That the latest 'act' of rearresting the said leaders is related to an ordinance universally condemned in Pakistan as a draconian conspiracy against the independence and authority of the judiciary will cause many to worry about the degradation of government in Pakistan. After the lawyers' community and the judges (in one case, a sitting judge) roundly condemned the ordinance, the president is said to have clarified that the ordinance had not been issued on his behest but on the insistance of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, Islamic Democratic Alliance] government. Many members of the various bars in Pakistan have already objected to the methodology of appointing judges to the special courts, alleging that the selecters did not fulfil the normal criteria of appointment. In their view, wherever the appointments are 'irregular' by normal criteria, the condition of impartiality has been jeopardised. Human rights organisations in Pakistan have formally objected to the concept of special courts, because it tends to foreclose possibilities of valid evidence and defence. This widespread impression has been compounded by the fact that the government has 'removed' cases from judges seen to be 'soft' on the opposition. No one in Pakistan believes that Mr Salman Taseer is a terrorist. The high court was right in granting him the bail in the case being heard against him at the special court. His rearrest will now look more like a conspiracy of political vendetta than due process of law. The image of the IJI has taken another beating far more lethal and durable than the beating received by its 'foes'.

Radio Claims Indian Anti-Muslim Plan in Jammu

BK2112162592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] India has launched a three-pronged plan to give communal and terrorist color to the freedom struggle in the Jammu region which aims to convert the Muslim-majority areas into the minority areas and to replace the civil administration by direct military rule. Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing—RAW—has started implementing this plan under the code name of Operation Fox. The plan envisages instigation of large- scale Hindu-Muslim riots in the Jammu region to mislead the world about the ongoing freedom struggle, increasing brutalities in the Muslim-majority areas and adopting cruel means against freedom fighters.

Meanwhile, reports received from Jammu say that Hindus have attacked the shops and houses of Muslims and set them on fire in Doda and seven innocent Muslims have been martyred in Jammu City and Udhampur. Military operations of laying siege and search and arrest have been increased and 30 innocent persons have been arrested in Doda, Vidharba, and Kishtwar. The situation is fast deteriorating in these areas and in Mendhar and Rajauri. Four more Indian soldiers have been killed in fresh clashes in various other places.

Reportage on Sharif's Japan Visit, Outcome

Cabinet Briefed

BK2112143292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The Federal Cabinet which met in Islamabad today was given a detailed presentation on the prime

minister's just-concluded visit to Japan. Chaired by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the special meeting of the cabinet was informed of the political and economic discussions held between the prime ministers of the two countries. The federal minister of finance, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, also briefed the cabinet separately on the discussions they held with their Japanese counterparts. Presentation to the Cabinet also focused on the concern expressed in Japan following the NBC TV story on Pakistan's nuclear program. The Cabinet was informed of the prime minister's detailed response to the Japanese concern, including reiteration of Pakistan's numerous offers for denuclearization of the South Asian region.

The Cabinet also reviewed the general political situation in the country and reiterated the government's commitment to such measures that would continue to facilitate and strengthen the democratic process in the country.

The federal minister for labor, manpower and overseas Pakistanis, Mr. Mohammad Ejazul Haq, briefed the Cabinet on the deportation of some Pakistanis from the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and informed the members of the measures taken by the Government in this regard. The prime minister directed the minister of state for foreign affairs to pursue the issue at diplomatic level. The Cabinet expressed confidence that in the background of the brotherly relations that exists between Pakistan and the UAE, there would be an early solution to the matter.

Japanese Loan Delayed

BK2112144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, has said that Japan will provide a loan of 50 billion yen to Pakistan. Addressing a joint press conference with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, in Islamabad today, he said the documents to this effect would be signed within weeks. He said that loan package was to be signed during the visit of prime minister to Japan; however, the signing was postponed due to the interview of opposition leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto on the nuclear issue. The minister said that as a result of the detailed talks between the Japanese leadership and Pakistan's prime minister, the Japanese Government agreed to delink the loan package from all the conditionalities, including the nuclear issue.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, described the prime minister's visit to Japan as very successful in promoting bilateral relations and understanding on regional and international issues. He said in the course of the wide-ranging talks with his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif discussed the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at length. Mr. Kanjoo said the prime minister also discussed recent happenings in India, especially the issue of Babri mosque with his Japanese counterpart.

U.S. 'Discriminatory Treatment' Decried

BK1812102592 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Ties With U.S."]

[Text] Talking to Japanese newsmen in Tokyo, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that his government is ready to develop a constructive and meaningful relationship with the United States without compromising on Pakistan's sovereignty and independence. He hoped for a meaningful cooperation between Pakistan and the new US Administration and added, "We have conveyed our willingness to the US in this regard but we will not accept inequitable and discriminatory treatment." He categorically refused to allow inspection of the nuclear installations at Kahuta. Pakistan, he said, would sign any agreement with India on the nuclear issue provided it was non-discriminatory and guaranteed keeping both the neighbouring countries "at par in letter and spirit." He denied reports that Pakistan possesses a nuclear warhead. Reiterating that Pak nuclear programme is geared entirely to peaceful purposes, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said, "Pakistan has an enemy across the border who detonated a nuclear device way back in 1974 and who does not listen to others. We have to confront over one hundred nuclear warheads of the enemy that threaten our security." He endorsed the view that Pak-India relations have been passing through a difficult phase since early 1990 due mainly to unabated Indian atrocities against the innocent people of the Indian-held Kashmir.

The assertion by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan stood for a meaningful relationship with the US without compromising the country's sovereignty and independence is the voice of a self-respecting nation. Unfortunately, Pakistan has usually been singled out for discriminatory treatment by the developed world, especially the US, in matters having a crucial bearing on its technological progress and survival. An instance of such discrimination was the reversal in 1991 by a joint session of the House of Representatives and the US Senate of an earlier decision under which the US President was required to certify the non-possession by both India and Pakistan of military capability in nuclear arms in order for them to qualify for US aid. The reversal made the discriminatory law applicable only to Pakistan while India, despite its demonstrable military nuclear capability, was given a blanket exemption. The implication of the decision was not that, according to the US, India did not possess the bomb, but only that the law would [word indistinct] be allowed to obstruct the grant of US economic and military aid to India. The decision by the US Congress thus gave Pakistan the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world to have been denied US economic and military aid on this score. The discriminatory treatment consistently meted out to this "most allied" of the US allies is disappointing to say the least. Justice demands that either the discriminatory law be

scrapped altogether or it should equally apply to countries like India and Israel which are known to possess nuclear weapons. Such a partisan approach on the part of the US, besides creating misunderstanding between two traditional friends, will adversely affect the balance of power in the region. The sooner this dichotomy is done away with, the better.

President Said Destroying Independent Judiciary

BK1812095792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Dec 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Mr President, This Is an Outrage"]

[Text] Whether it was at his insistence or with his acquiescence, the two Ordinances (XV and XXII of 1992) promulgated by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan—one denying under-trial prisoners their statutory right to be released on bail after two years in prison without the prosecution proving any case against them, and the other depriving the High Courts of the power to grant bail to any person accused of an offence under the Suppression of Terrorist Activities (Special Courts) Act, 1975—have neither enhanced the dignity and independence of the judiciary nor the President's own reputation and prestige. Jurists and lawyers have seen the two Ordinances as a calculated violation of human rights and yet another assault on the judicial system of the country. Commentators have not failed to notice the coincidence in the promulgation of the two Ordinances and the hearing of the bail application of Mr Asif Ali Zardari in the Sindh High Court.

The second Ordinance which ousted the jurisdiction of the High Court, came into effect on the day the Court was expected to give its judgement on Zardari's application. It is not difficult to forecast the explanation the President will offer if he is pressed. He will recall that the Suppression of Terrorist Activities (Special Courts) Act was promulgated by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1975 and all he has done is to keep it in force with some minor amendments. That is the President's usual ploy. When he was asked about the activities of his son-in-law in Sindh he retorted: "What about the sons-in-law of others?" The retort shut up the questioner but the President has not been able to live it down.

Surely, the President has not forgotten how the people and the press protested when the Terrorist Act was first promulgated. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was accused of having violated his oath of office and the Ordinance was seen as an outrage and a slur on the judicial system. Bhutto used the Ordinance to settle his score with his political opponents and reconsolidate his authoritarian rule. To use that as a precedent is only to enlarge and fortify that outrage.

Does the President realise the grave implications and long-term consequences of these scandalous Ordinances? On the one hand they give arbitrary powers to the executive and on the other demolish the serene citadel of justice. Forget whether it is in the national interest to release Mr Zardari on bail or not, there are hundreds of other citizens who are daily rounded up by corrupt members of the police force and who find themselves robbed of their right to seek and secure justice from the Courts of law. Now that an under-trial prisoner can be kept in jail indefinitely, the prosecution does not have to worry about the time it takes to collect any evidence and frame any charges against him. But the more devastating aspect is the fact that through these Ordinances the executive can make a mockery of the judicial system. Already the executive inroads have undermined the confidence of the people in the independence of the courts. The whole system of appointment of judges and the manner of their postings and transfers has robbed the Judges of their sense of security—the foundation on which rests the structural integrity and independence of the judiciary. Judges don't drop from the skies. They are normal human beings subject to fear and temptation. It is the social order which provides them with the environment in which the finest qualities of their judgement come to blossom. If Judges are thrown at the mercy of the executive, they begin to behave like ordinary people, now (?responding) to temptation, now to fear. Yet when they don their robes and sit in their august chairs they have to pretend to be impartial and fearless. Nothing is more pathetic than a Judge trying to keep up the pretence of courage and independence when he is worried about his job and his next posting.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan should look at the state of the democratic institutions over which he presides.

The Parliament survives at the margins of the political process. Who can guess which member belongs to which political party? They are recognised by their open or secret affiliations with the President, the Prime Minister or the intelligence agencies of the armed forces. They do not have the courage even to repeal the odious 8th Amendment which has paralysed the Parliament. Ghulam Ishaq Khan himself conferred the title of "horse-trading" on the wheeler dealers in the Parliament and now we have the largest paddock in the precincts of the Presidency. General Ziaul Haq, who employed every form of blackmail and pressure to get the 8th amendment passed by a supine Parliament, celebrated his victory by dissolving the Parliament and dismissing the government. The same exercise was repeated by Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the effects of that arbitrary action can now be seen in the growing polarisation in the country. The "references" which the President filed against the members of the PPP have boomeranged. The President's neutrality is under question. It is widely believed that a special cell was established in the Presidency to supervise and monitor the progress of the last elections and members of the cell were engaged in manipulating the results of the election. Evidence has been produced of the involvement of the Presidency in the no-confidence motion against the last Prime Minister.

The office of the Prime Minister has been turned into a subordinate agency of the President. There are several areas of government which come under the direct control

of the President. The result is the deepening economic mess and the growing waywardness in the handling of international affairs.

The executive has lost all sense of purpose and direction. Civil servants are looking for "lucrative" assignments when they are not dancing attendance on Ministers or divining ways of carrying out orders of their superiors—lawful or unlawful.

That leaves the judiciary which is looked upon by the people as their last resort of redress. The executive appears to be determined to rob the judicial system of its dignity and independence and the citizens are extremely worried that if the judicial system cracks up they will be left at the mercy of the forces of lawlessness and corruption.

Surely the President is not unaware of these things nor is it reasonable to believe that he wants to encourage incompetence and corruption to strengthen his position to secure another term. For what? For continuing with the same degenerate system in the same disorderly fashion?

We appeal to Ghulam Ishaq Khan to recognise the extreme gravity of the problems facing the country. He cannot behave as an observer when he is a direct participant. The people hold him responsible for what is going on in the country, and if he fails history will record the verdict of guilty against him as happened in the case of Ghulam Mohammad and Iskander Mirza.

The joint session of Parliament is being held on 22nd December. We hope that Members of Parliament, whatsoever their persuasion and their past, will rise above the morass of self-interest and recognise the degeneration that is creeping into every corner of our social life and stand up to protest against the debasement of the political and the judicial system under the present constitutional dispensation. The President should make an unequivocal statement that he will observe universally recognised democratic conventions and voluntarily abandon the use of arbitrary powers available to him under the 8th amendment.

Sharp Fall in Remittances Offsets Higher Exports

BK2012133592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Home remittances of overseas Pakistanis came down to 1467.48 million dollars in 1991-92 from the previous year's figure of 1818.39 million, pushing up the current account deficit to 2536 million dollars as against the previous year's gap of 2171 million.

According to the actual official figures of foreign exchange receipts of 1991-92 available here, the account of remittances which was down by over 20 per cent over the previous year, neutralised the reduction in the trade deficit in the year due to higher exports.

Exports went up in 1991-92 to $6848 million from the previous year's $5902 million, as against the increase in imports from $8385 million to $9095 million during this period, resulting in an improvement in the trade deficit from the previous year's $2483 million to $2211 million.

Home remittances from Pakistanis working abroad have been decreasing steadily during the last few years. The highest amount received during the boom years was $2885.87 million in 1982-83. These results came down to $2000 million in 1985-86 and since then, have been decreasing by 5 to 10 per cent yearly. But in 1991-92, the decrease was much sharp.

Knowlegeable circles ascribe this unprecedened fall in remittances partly to the post-Gulf war slump. But official circles claim that the decrease was only statistically significant. In practical terms, it did not mean much.

According to this argument, some of these foreign exchange payments have been diverted to the foreign exchange accounts in Pakistani banks recently permitted to be opened by overseas Pakistanis under the foreign exchange reforms.

The region-wise breakup of these foreign exchange receipts figures shows that the Middle East remained the main source of remittances, although with a declining trend.

Remittances from the Middle Eastern countries taken together were $885.03 million in 1991-92 as against $1234.84 million in 1990-91. These countries (with remittance figures for 1991-92 given in parenthesis) include Saudi Arabia ($685.48 million), UAE ($134.28 million), Kuwait (52.73 million), Libya ($1.93 million), Qatar ($16.50 million), Bahrain ($35.62) million), Sultanate of Oman ($ 77.85 million) and Iran ($0.64 minion).

Other countries include the United States ($150.34 million), the United Kingdom ($137.02 million), Germany ($33.12 million), Norway ($16.26 million), Canada (39.80 million) and others (105.86 million).

Sri Lanka

Key Tamil Minister Quits Over Failed Peace Bid

BK2212123092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Colombo, Dec 22 (AFP)—A powerful Sri Lankan Tamil minister Tuesday [22 December] resigned from a parliamentary panel appointed to hammer out a solution to the island's ethnic bloodletting and accused it of working against peace.

Tourism and Rural Industries Minister S. Thondaman charged in a five-page statement that the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) had failed to understand the aspirations of minority Tamils concentrated in the northeast.

Thondaman, who heads the country's largest trade union among tea plantations and provides crucial support to

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government, accused the PSC of trying to complicate the problem.

He rejected an offer by majority Sinhalese parties, including Premadasa's United National Party to adopt an Indian-model administration to grant greater autonomy to the minority Tamil community.

"This inequitous system cannot attract the attention of the Tamils. A wrong model cannot rectify a malady. It complicated the problem," Thondaman said, adding that his thinking was in complete variance with that of the PSC.

The parliament was told last Wednesday the PSC concluded 16 months of talks without a consensus on key issues. The PSC wound up with four Sinhalese and a Muslim group refusing to grant territorial concessions to Tamils.

Meanwhile, the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has said that Tamils had gone even beyond federalism as a solution to the crisis and said they would fight on for independence.

The PSC chairman Mangala Munasinghe, in a letter to the speaker, said that members of the PSC favoured an unspecified "scheme of devolution similar to that which obtains in India in the administration of states."

However, Tamil MPs said their Sinhalese colleagues were unwilling to commit themselves to granting powers similar to those enjoyed by state governments in India, which had authority over land and law and order.

Thondaman said he insisted on the uniting as one unit the sprawling northern and eastern provinces to devolve powers to Tamils.

"This is the starting point for consideration of any proposal to resolve the ethnic problem. Not to accept this political imperative is to set one's face against peace," he charged.

The minister represents the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC), a trade union mainly for Tamils of Indian origin. He said the CWC was pulling out of the select committee. However, he continues to be a member of the government.

Thondaman is a senior cabinet minister but retains his separate identity within the government.

Mainstream Tamil political parties as well as the LTTE have been campaigning for uniting the two provinces, which are temporarily merged in line with a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact.

The 1987 pact too ended in failure despite New Delhi's military intervention to disarm the LTTE. India lost 1,140 soldiers during the 32-month presence in the island's northeast.

The two provinces account for about one-third of Sri Lanka's land area, and the Sinhalese have maintained that granting greater autonomy to such a large unit was unacceptable to them.

President Highlights Economic Achievements

BK2012134292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa says that the government's aim is to repair the damage caused by party politics. The country is now entering a political system based on humanism and policy consideration. He noted that the party system should survive to provide alternative policies for the benefit of the people. The president was speaking at the ruling United National Party Executive Committee meeting at the party headquarters in Sri Jaywardenepure yesterday.

Referring to the northeast problem, the president said that the Parliamentary Select Committee is to submit its recommendations shortly and the government seeks the assistance of the public to find a just solution to the ethnic problem.

Explaining in detail the country's economic achievements under the present regime, the president disclosed that the gross domestic product has increased to 435 billion rupees from 222 billion rupees in 1988. Inflation has been reduced to 12 percent from 22 percent in 1988. The country's per-capita income has been increased to $510. The government's income has been raised to 94 billion rupees in 1992. The government has foreign resources to finance five months of import. The president claimed that these achievements were possible due to the effective financial control and regulation. The value of industrial exports and tourist arrivals have increased considerably over the past three years. Tourist arrivals are expected to top the 400,000 mark by the end of this year.